



Shojo Beat Manga

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Story & Art by

Aya Nakahara

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The Place Where We Belong

WaT: The Teppei Koike Story133

The Story So Far...

Risa and Ôtani are their class's lopsided comedy duo... and they've become a couple! Ôtani has been accepted into a teachers' college, while Risa plans to become a fashion stylist.

Meanwhile, life goes on. While visiting a tropical island for Mighty Sensei's wedding, Risa gets hot and bothered over sharing a hotel room with Ôtani. But after seeing the...er...natural way Mighty and Jady express their love, Risa learns to take it easy.

Now graduation is just around the corner, and Risa and her friends have all landed on the graduation committee. Charged with the task of coming up with a memorable farewell for the class, they take a video camera around the school. They get some shots of the warm friendships Ôtani will leave behind on his basketball team and then move on to the rest of the class...

♥ To really get all the details, check out *Lovely Complex* volumes 1-15, available at bookstores everywhere!!

WONDER ACTION



A TALE OF A TALL GIRL AND A SHORT BOY.
THEY LIVE IN OSAKA AND ARE ENJOYING
THEMSELVES EVERY DAY.

ATSUSHI OTANI

LOVELY★
COMPLEX

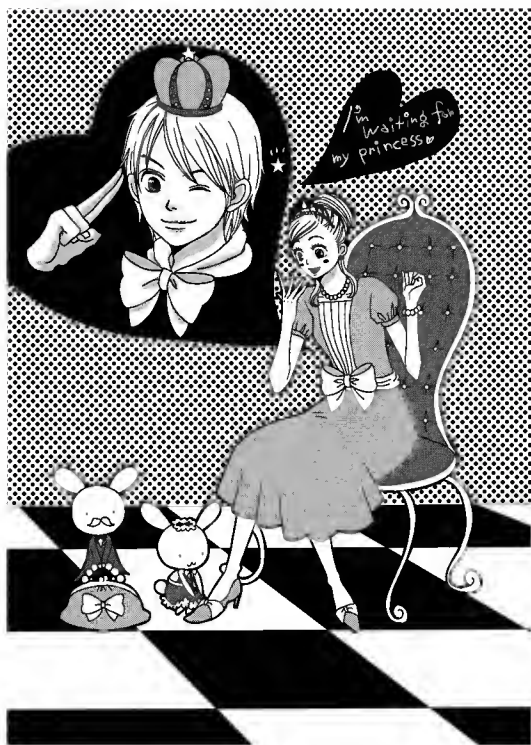


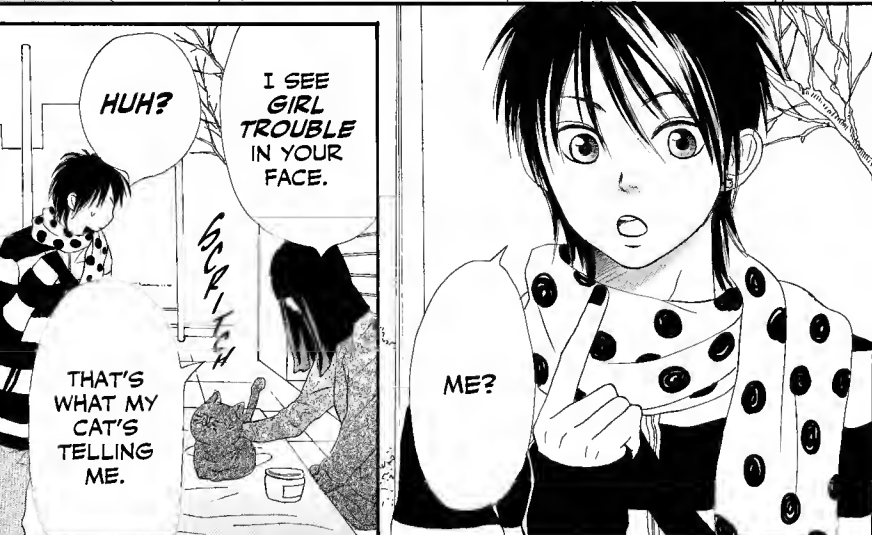
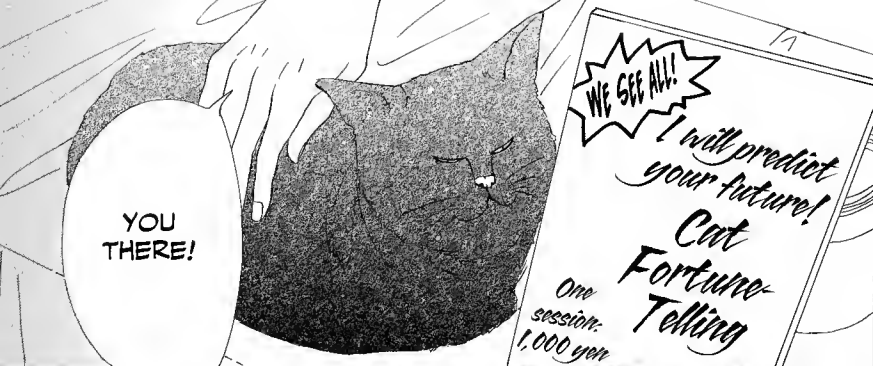
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CHAPTER 60



...AND DID ONE OF THE WOMEN IN YOUR LIFE TURN OUT TO BE A **MAN?**

RECENTLY YOU'VE FALLEN INTO THE CLUTCHES OF AN OLDER WOMAN...

Thanks a bunch, Kohonin!

...BEEN TRICKED BY A SEDUC-TRESS...



I KNOW ALL, I SEE ALL.

HOW DID YOU KNOW?



IF THE AUGURIES ARE TRUE, YOU'RE DOOMED TO FACE EVEN **GREATER MISFORTUNE...** UNLESS...

HUH?



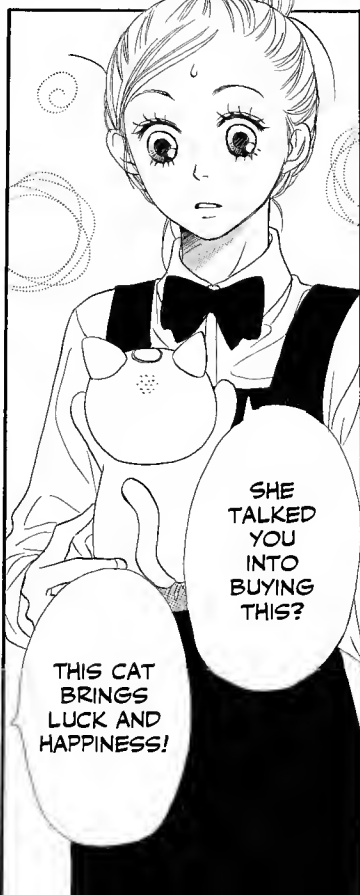
OH NO! WHAT'S THIS?

HUH? WHAT IS IT?

W H O A
N Y A A !!



G R P





HERE'S HOPING
IT BRINGS
YOU HAPPI-
NESS...

SIGH

KOHORI-
KUN...
WAIT...

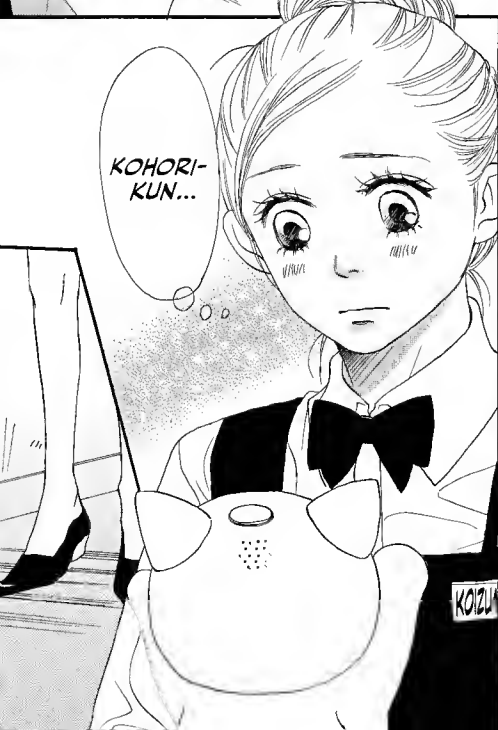


UM...



heh

IF YOU
LIKE IT,
RISA-SAN,
YOU CAN
HAVE IT.



KOHORI-
KUN...



KOHORI-
KUN'S A
NICE GUY,
BUT HE
HAS THE
WORST
LUCK!

IF ONLY HE
COULD FIND
HAPPINESS!

福



GRADUATION'S
AROUND
THE
CORNER.



BREAK'S
OVER,
KOIKE-SAN!
HOP TO IT!


SORRY!
COMING!



HUH?

ISSUN-
BOSHI,
STARRING
OTANI.

*Whaddya
think?*



IT'S THE
STORY OF A
LITTLE BOY,
NO BIGGER
THAN A THUMB,
AND HIS
ADVENTURES IN
A SOUP BOWL
HE USES
FOR A BOAT.

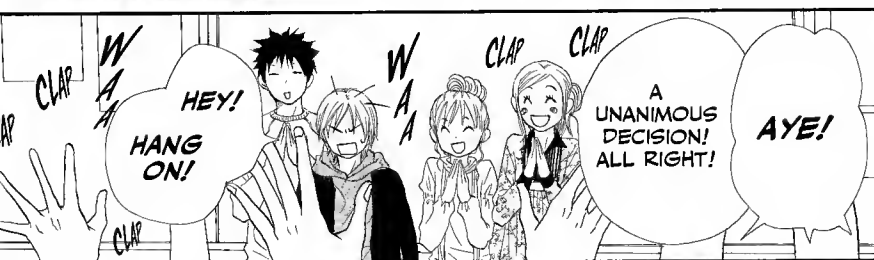
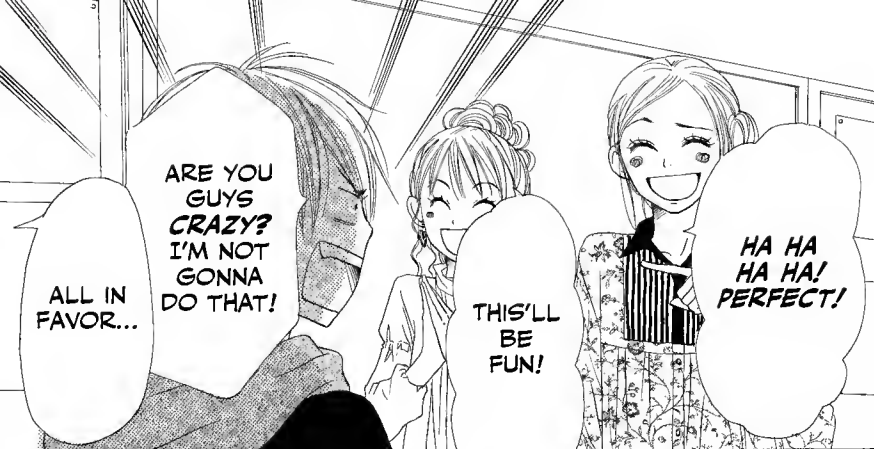


THE
GRADUATION
COMMIT-
TEE'S
BEEN
SUPER
BUSY.

WE
NEED TO
CHOOSE
A SCRIPT.

...OUR
CLASS
HAS TO
PRESENT
A SKIT
FOR THE
GRADUATION
PARTY.

ALSO...





...YOU'LL
NEVER HAVE
ANOTHER
CHANCE TO
RIDE AROUND
IN A GIANT
SOUP BOWL!

ONCE
THESE
GOLDEN
DAYS ARE
GONE, NO
MATTER
HOW LONG
YOU LIVE...

I'LL DIE
BEFORE I
RIDE IN A
BOWL!!

ㄥㄥ

IF YOU
DON'T,
WHO WILL?
SEIZE
THE DAY,
ÔTANI!



C'MON,
YOU TWO!
WHAT'S
THE
HOLDUP?

NO!
YOU'RE
NOT
TALKING
ME INTO
THIS
ONE!!

WELL...
THAT'S
TRUE...



**KNOCK
IT
OFF!!**

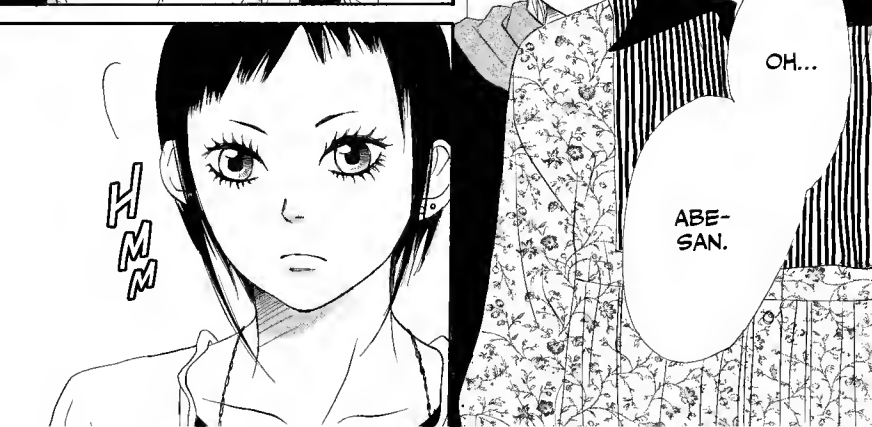
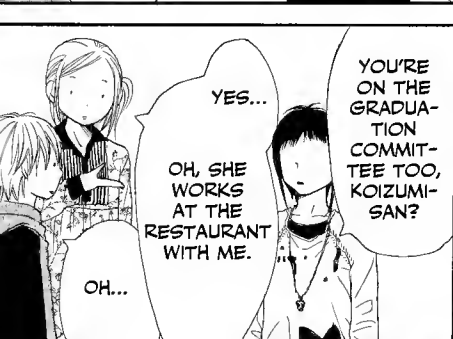
I'LL USE ALL
MY POWER
TO GET
ÔTANI-BOSH!
IN THE TOP
SLOT!

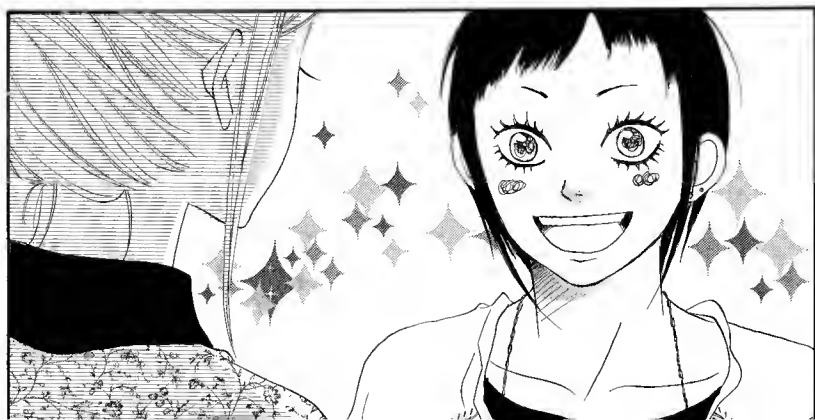
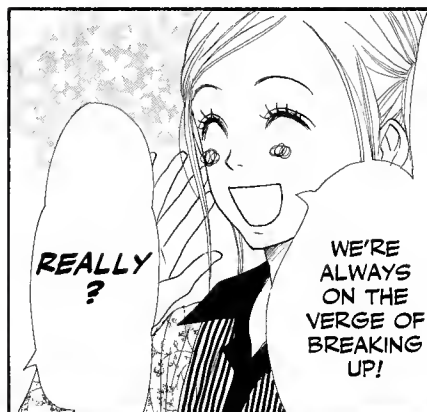


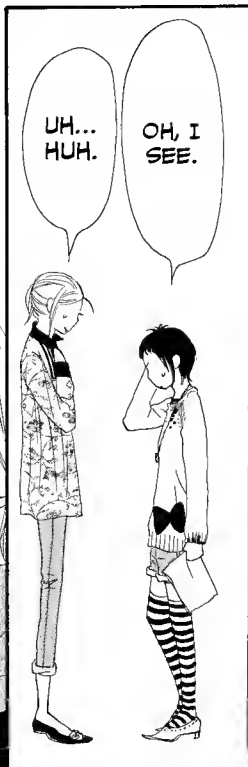
WE'RE
GONNA
DRAW LOTS
TO DECIDE
THE ENTER-
TAINMENT
SCHEDULE.

YEAH.

ALL THE
CLASS REPS
ARE COMING
TO THE
GRADUATION
COMMITTEE
MEETING,
RIGHT?



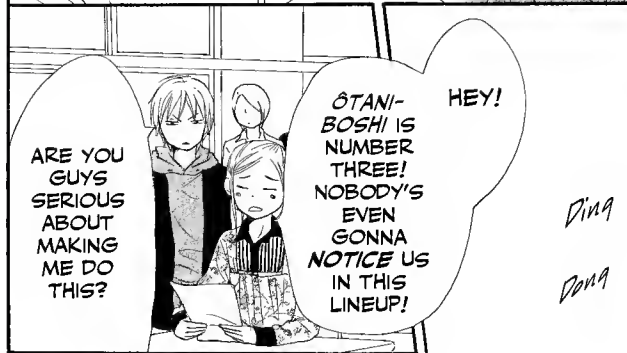






IN
YOUR
DREAMS.

MAYBE
SHE FELL
IN LOVE
WITH ME
AT FIRST
SIGHT.



ARE YOU
GUYS
SERIOUS
ABOUT
MAKING
ME DO
THIS?

OTANI-
BOSHI IS
NUMBER
THREE!
NOBODY'S
EVEN
GONNA
NOTICE US
IN THIS
LINEUP!

HEY!

Ding

Dong



TO
THE
PLAY?

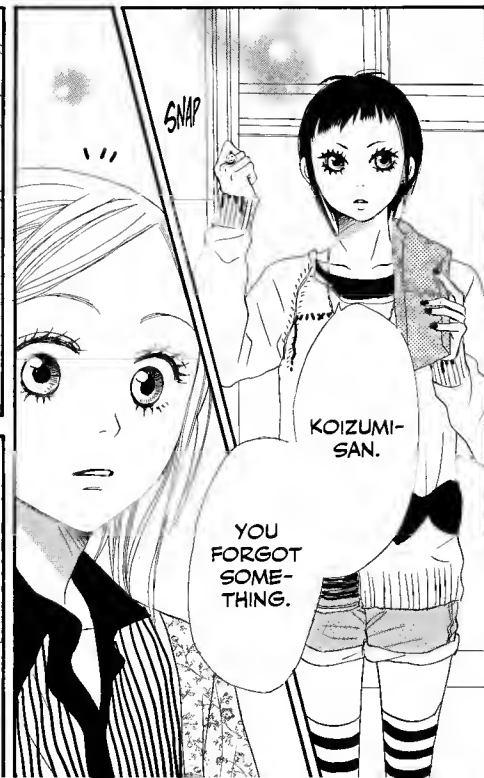
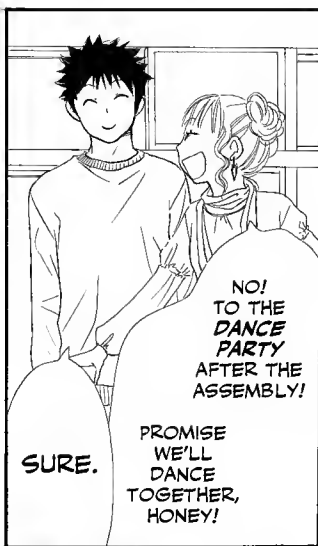
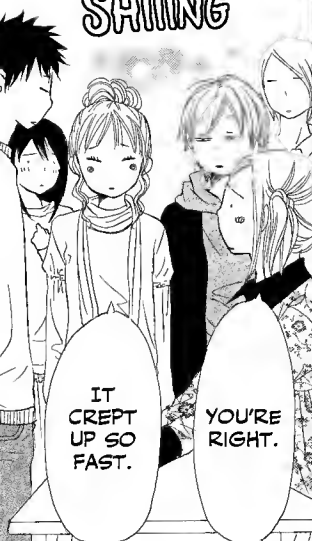
I
WONDER
WHAT I
SHOULD
WEAR...

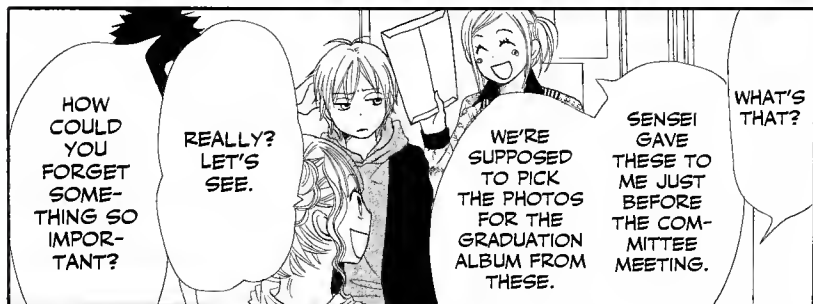
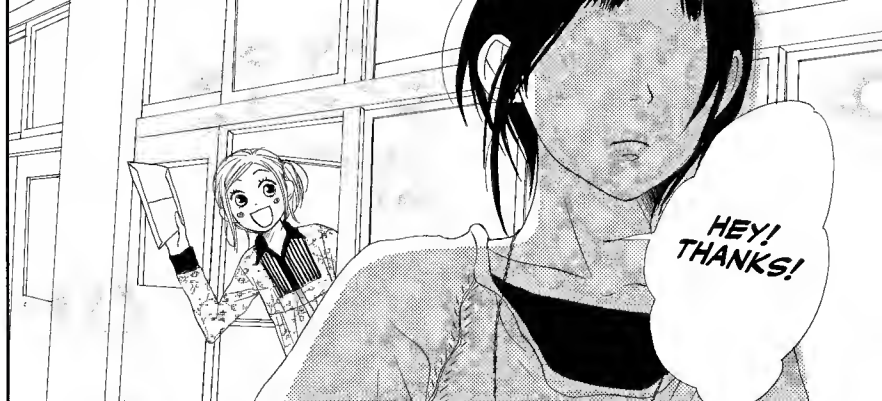
C'MON!
IT'LL BE
OUR LAST
CHANCE
TO GO
CRAZY!

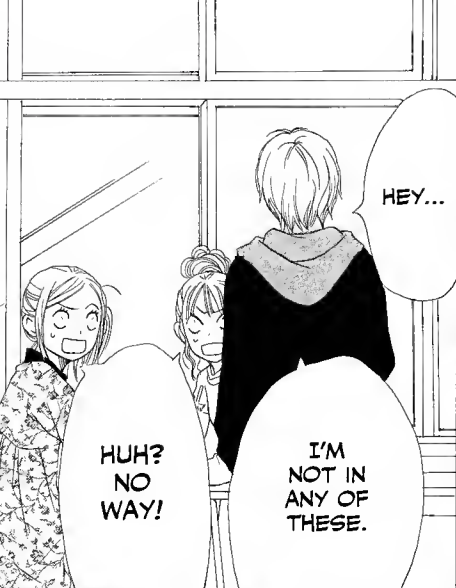


MAYBE
I'M JUST
SEEING
THINGS.

SHINING







HEY...

HUH?
NO WAY!

I'M
NOT IN
ANY OF
THESE.



IT
REALLY
BRINGS
BACK
MEMORIES.

THOSE
DAYS
WERE
SO
MUCH
FUN.



SHF
WHY
NOT?

WHAT?

SHF
YOU'RE
RIGHT!!

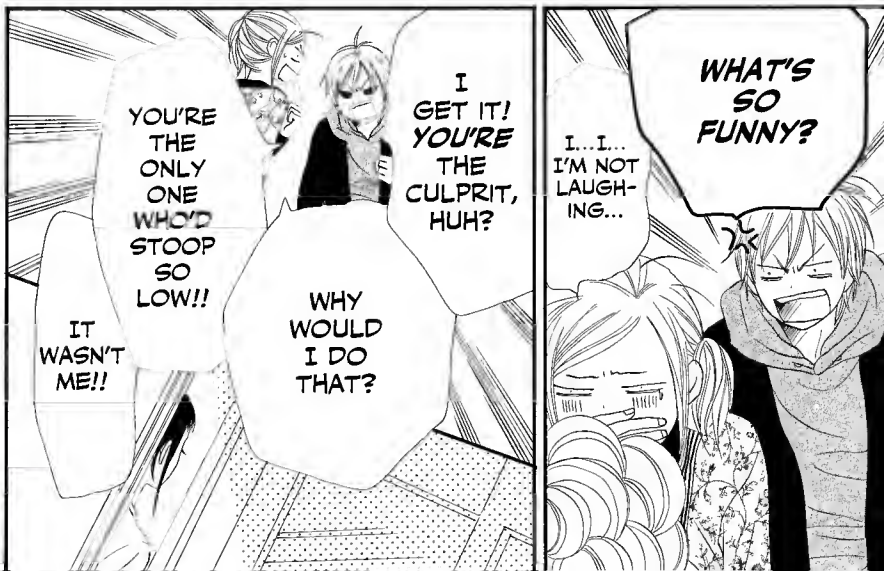
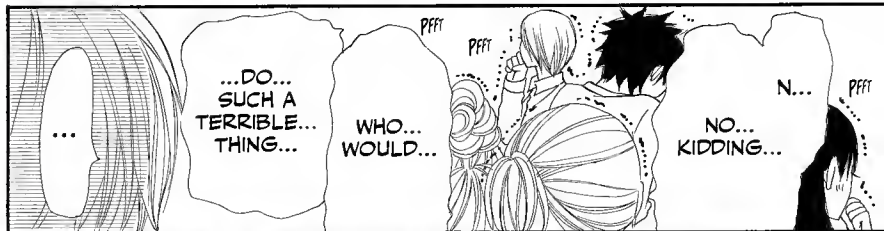
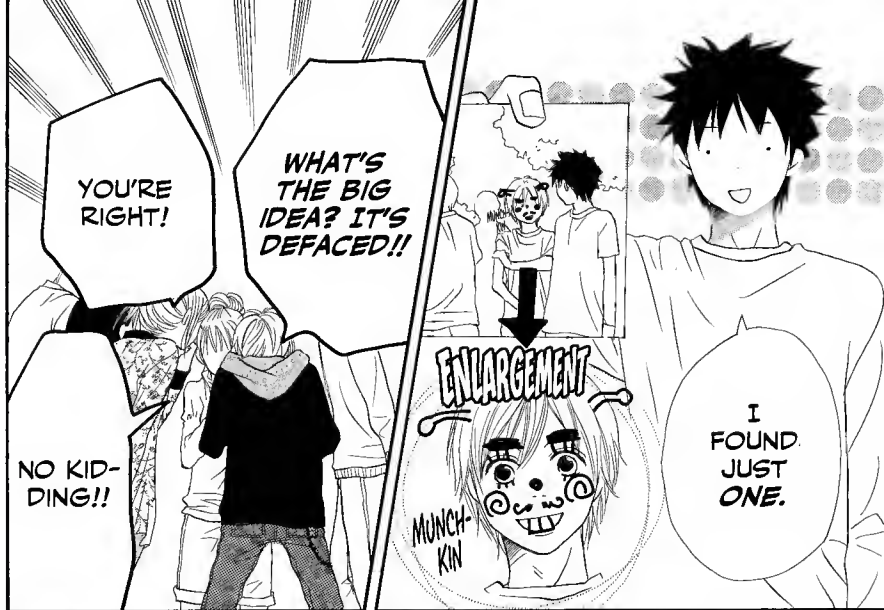


THERE'S
GOTTA
BE
SOME-
THING!

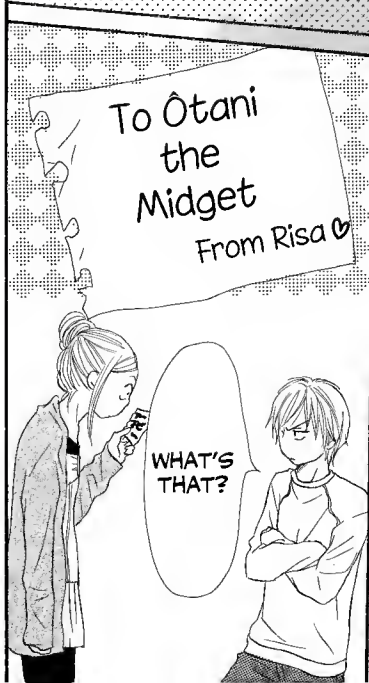
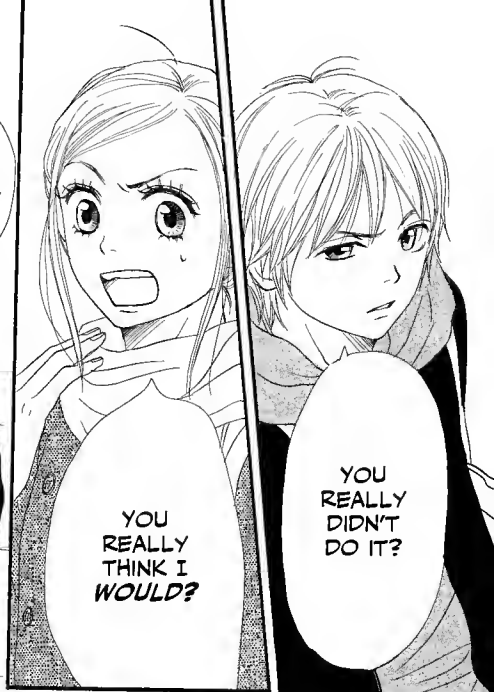
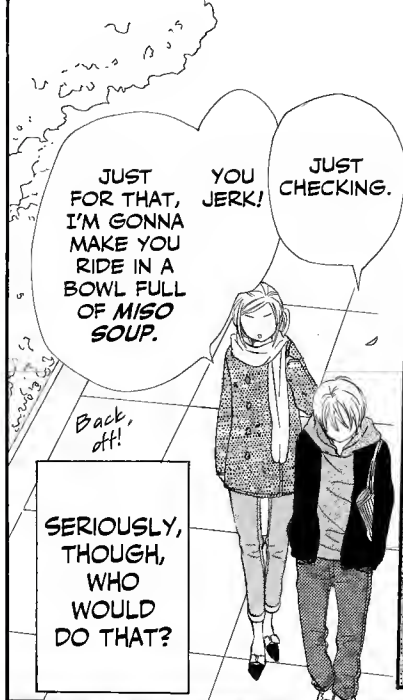
WE'LL
FIND
SOME!

SHF
SHF
SHF
YEAH!











I DON'T
KNOW!
I DIDN'T
WRITE
THIS!!

IT...

**DON'T
LIE
TO
ME!**

IT
LOOKS
LIKE MY
WRITING,
BUT...

WELL, IT'S
DEFINITELY
YOUR HAND-
WRITING!!



THAT'S
WHAT
I'M
ASKING
YOU!

HUH?

WHAT'S
THIS?

IT WAS
IN MY
DESK!!



**WHAT'S
GOING
ON?**

LOOK,
I SWEAR
I DON'T
KNOW
ANYTHING
ABOUT IT!!

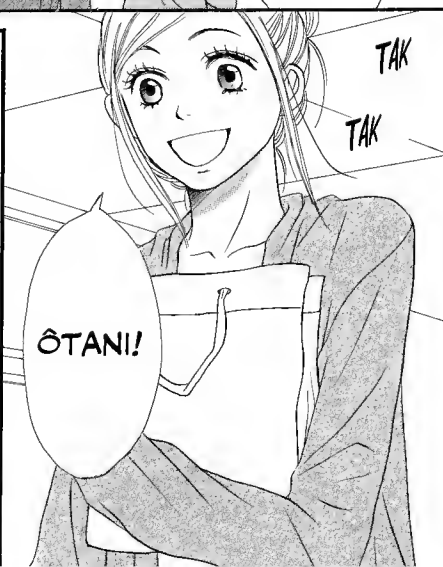
IF THAT'S
HOW YOU
WANNA PLAY,
WE'D BETTER
TAKE THIS
OUTSIDE!!



HERE'S
YOUR
COSTUME.

FOR
ISSUN-
BÔSHI.

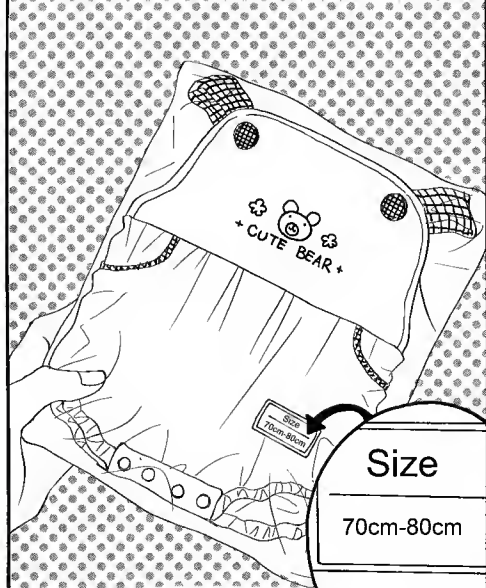
MY
WHAT?

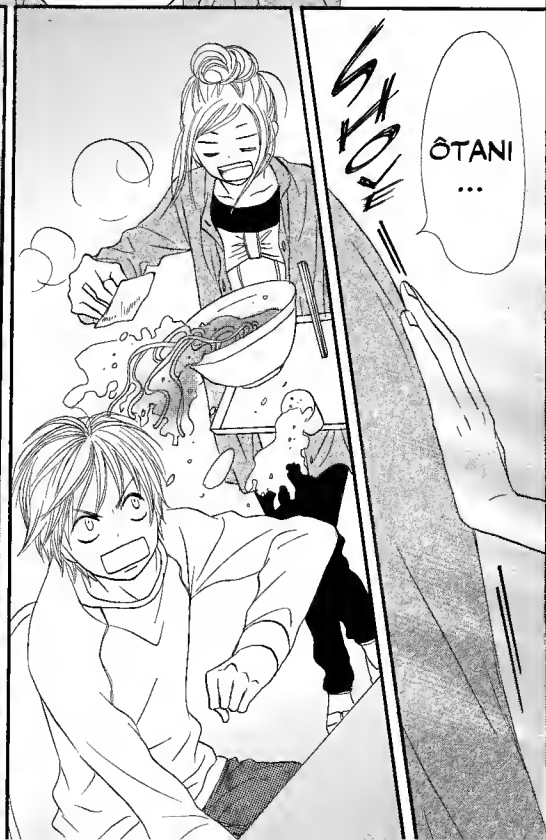


TAK

TAK

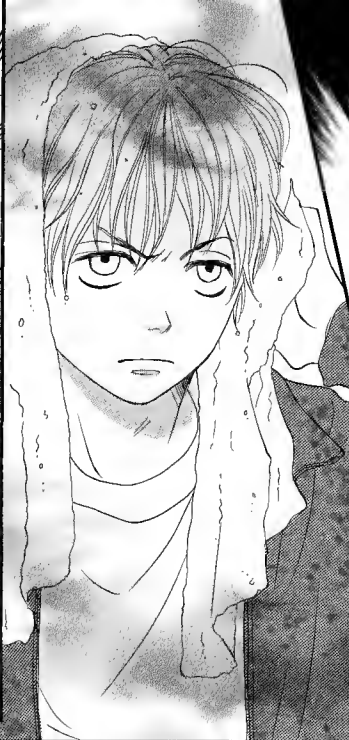
ÔTANI!







I'M
SOOO
SORRY!!



WHOOPS!



WHY
IS THIS
HAPPEN-
ING?

I SWEAR
SOMEBODY
SHOVED
ME FROM
BEHIND.



WHAT?



IF YOU'RE
PISSED OFF
ABOUT SOME-
THING, COME
ON OUT AND
SAY IT!!

HUH?
IT'S
NOT
LIKE
THAT!

THEN
WHAT'S
YOUR
PROBLEM
?



NOT
EVERY-
BODY
HATES
ME!!

IT
COULD
BE
ANYONE.

SOME-
BODY
WITH A
GRUDGE
AGAINST
ÔTANI.



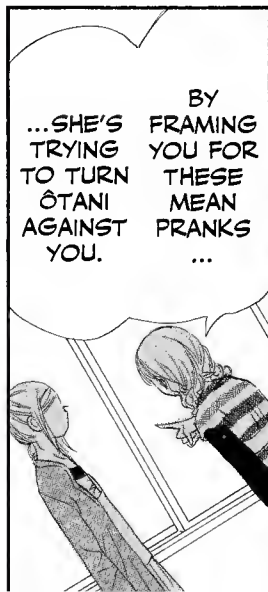
I DIDN'T
HAVE ANY-
THING TO
DO WITH
THE NOTE
OR THE
COSTUME.

WHO
ELSE
WOULD
DO
STUFF
LIKE
THAT?



NOPE.

YOU
GOT
ANY
IDEAS,
THEN?

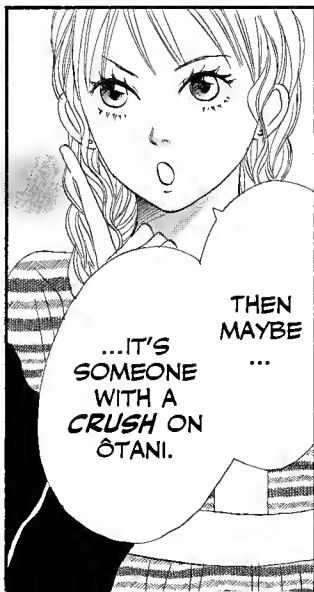


...SHE'S
TRYING
TO TURN
ÔTANI
AGAINST
YOU.

BY
FRAMING
YOU FOR
THESE
MEAN
PRANKS
...

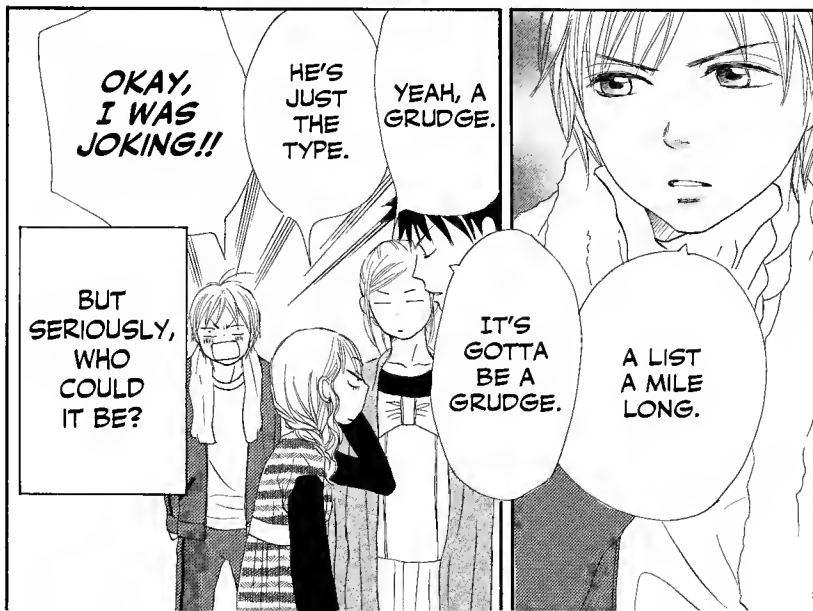
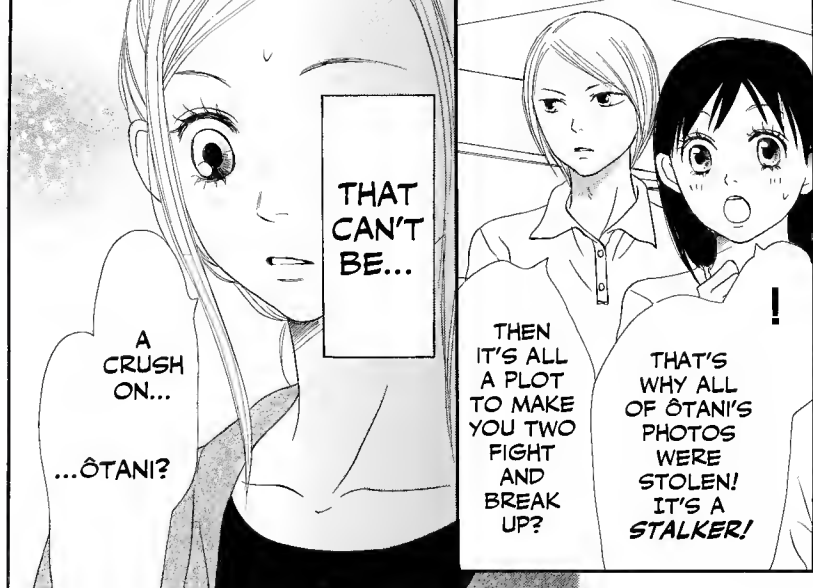


WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?



THEN
MAYBE
...

...IT'S
SOMEONE
WITH A
CRUSH
ON
ÔTANI.





HEY!

ABE-SAN!

WHO'S
DOING
THIS...
AND
WHY?

THIS IS
STARTING TO
SCARE
ME.

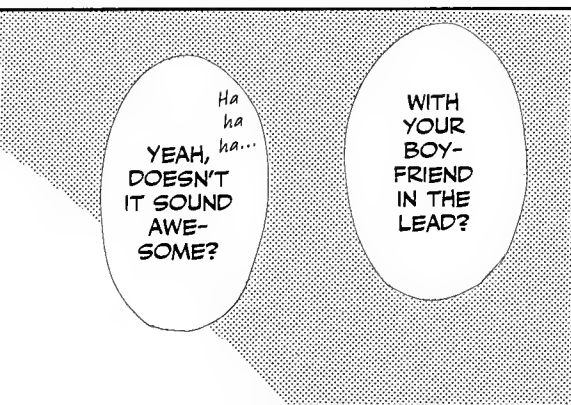


YOU'RE
DOING
ISSUN-
BÔSHI...

...RIGHT
?

I KNOW.
ME TOO.

I WANT
TO GET
THINGS
PERFECT
FOR OUR
LAST DAY.



Ha
ha
ha...
YEAH,
DOESN'T
IT SOUND
AWE-
SOME?

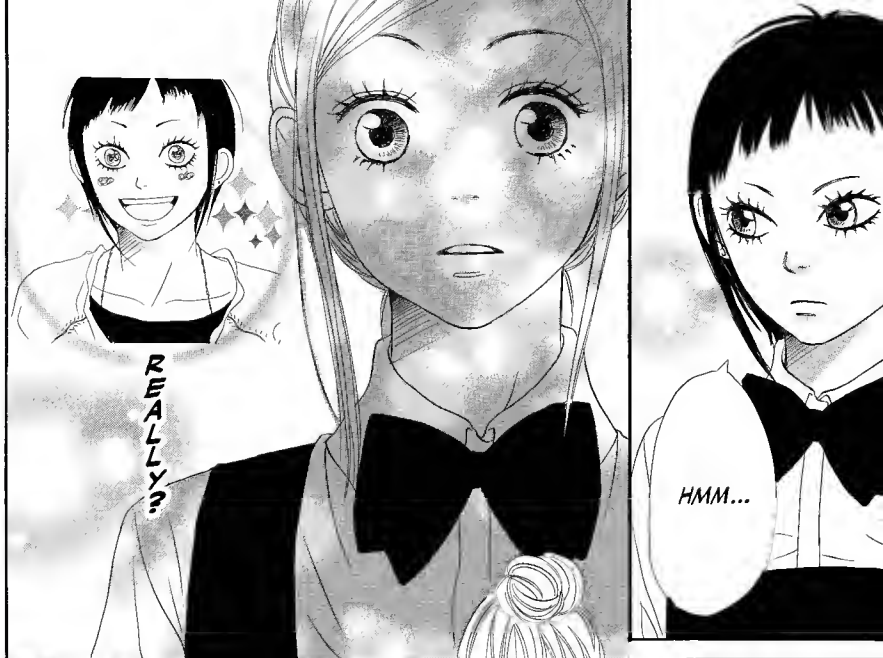
WITH
YOUR
BOY-
FRIEND
IN THE
LEAD?



YOU'RE
WORKING
TODAY
TOO?

YES.

I'M GOING
TO HAVE TO
TAKE TIME OFF
TO PREPARE
FOR THE
GRADUATION
PARTY.



REALLY?

HMM...

COULD
SHE
BE THE
ONE
WHO...?

HUH?

ABE-
SAN...



OH YEAH?
WHAT'RE
YOU GOING
TO DO?

WE
HAVE A
BAND.

SING.

WHAT'S
YOUR
CLASS
DOING
FOR THE
GRADUATION
PARTY?

UMM...

NO
WAY!!





REALLY?

YEAH.
DON'T WORRY
ABOUT
IT.

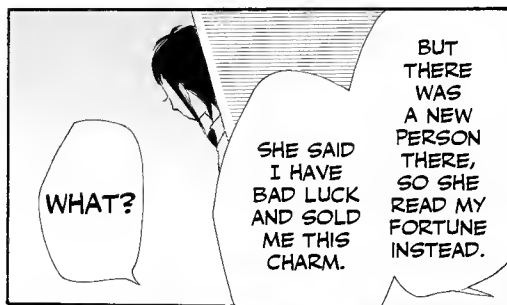


Heh...

SHE'S
LIKE
THAT
WITH
ME
TOO.

SHE'S
JUST
KINDA
STAND-
OFFISH.

SHE
WON'T
EVEN
LOOK
AT ME.



WHAT?

SHE SAID
I HAVE
BAD LUCK
AND SOLD
ME THIS
CHARM.

BUT
THERE
WAS
A NEW
PERSON
THERE,
SO SHE
READ MY
FORTUNE
INSTEAD.



OKAY!



WAS
THAT A
SMART
THING
TO DO?

IT'S
SUPPOSED
TO BRING
HAPPINESS.

THIS
TIME
IT'S A
DOG.



WHAT A
TOTAL
RIPOFF.

I WENT
BACK
TO THAT
FORTUNE-
TELLER
AND SHE
WAS
GONE.

HEY,
LISTEN
TO THIS!

BAM!



TIME'S
RUNNING
OUT.

I'M GOING
TO MAKE
SURE OUR
PLAY IS A
SUCCESS!!

I'VE BEEN
THINKING IT
OVER, BUT I
DON'T KNOW
HOW TO
CATCH THAT
PRANKSTER.

GUESS
I'D BETTER
JUST
CONCENTRATE
ON THE
GRADUATION
PARTY.



LOOK,
ÔTANI!



DON'T
TELL ME
YOU'RE
GOING
TO LET
ALL OUR
HARD
WORK
GO TO
WASTE!

**NO
THANKS!**



DIDN'T
IT COME
OUT
GREAT?
IT'S
REALLY
HARD TO
MAKE
CURVES
OUT OF
CARD-
BOARD!
**GO ON,
GET IN!!**

I'M
RIDING
IN...
THIS?



EVERYBODY
LAUGHED
AT ME WHEN
I TALKED
ABOUT
MY "BOWL
MOVE-
MENT"...

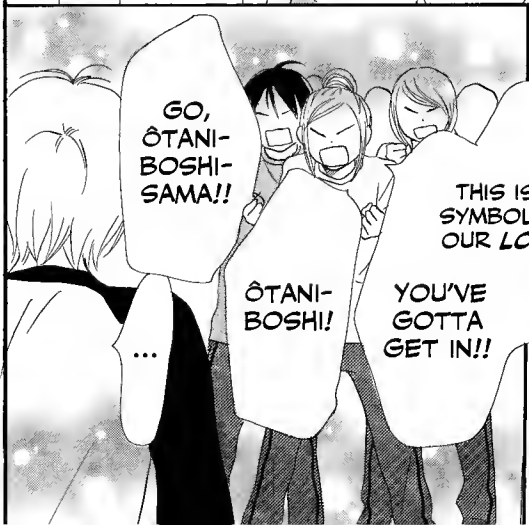
YOU
SEE?

I HAD
NIGHT-
MARES
ABOUT
BOWLS
EVERY
NIGHT...

THE PAINT
RUINED
HALF MY
CLOTHES...

IT TOOK
THREE
DAYS
JUST TO
WORK
OUT A
PATTERN...

THE
WHOLE
PROJECT
TOOK A
WEEK...



GO,
ÔTANI-
BOSHI-
SAMA!!

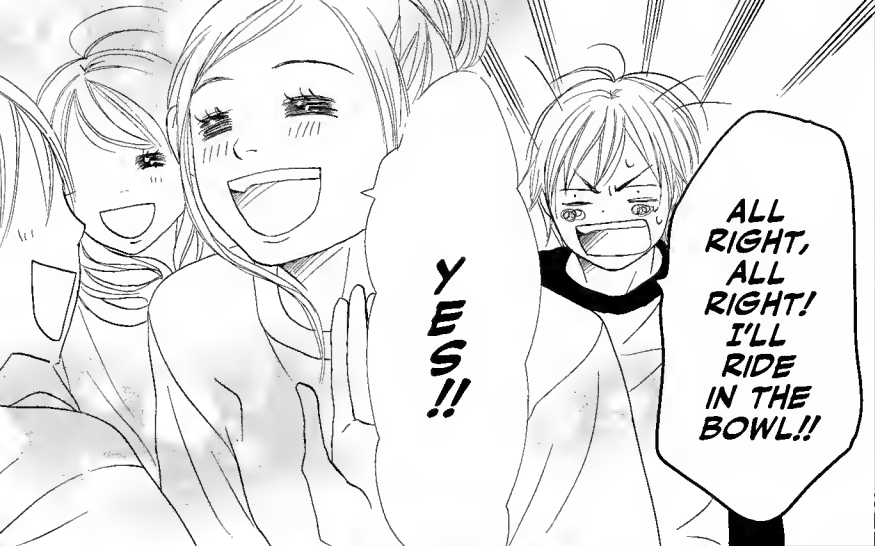
ÔTANI-
BOSHI!

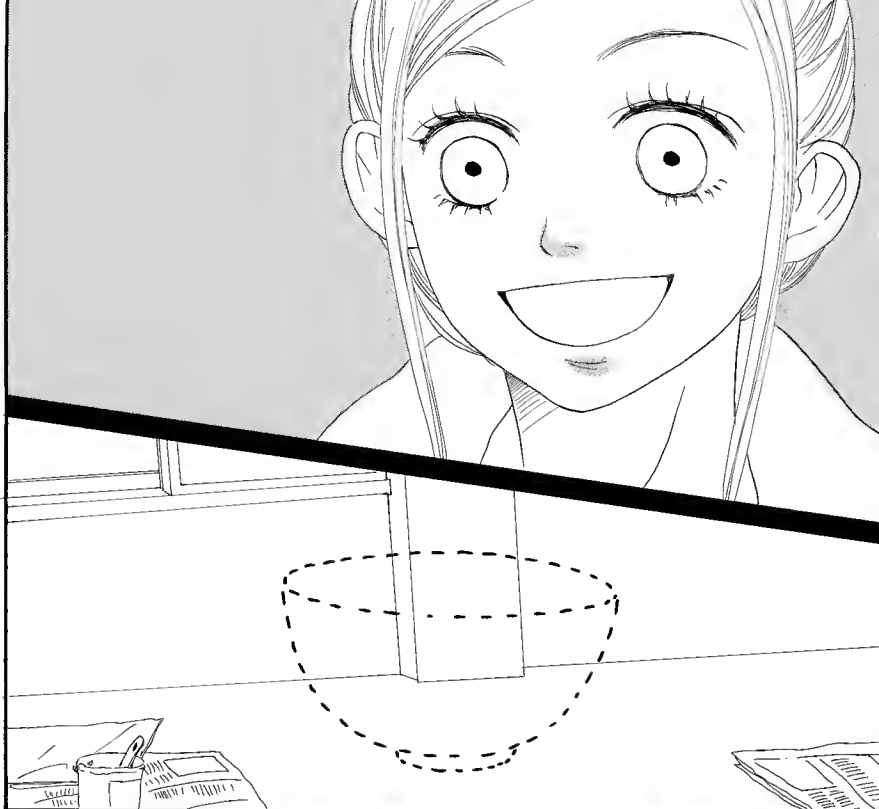
YOU'VE
GOTTA
GET IN!!

THIS IS A
SYMBOL OF
OUR LOVE!



GRR...







HEY!

**OVER
HERE!**

HUH?

**WHERE'D
IT GO?**



**IT'S STILL
WARM!! THE
CULPRIT'S
GOTTA BE
NEARBY!!**

**AND IT'S
FULL OF
MISO
SOUP!!**

**THIS IS A
REGULAR-
SIZED
BOWL!!**

**FIND
'EM!**

WEIRD...

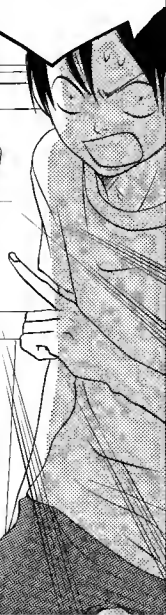


**ALL THE
FIXINGS!!**

**WITH
KELP...
AND WHITE
CABBAGE...
AND
CARROTS...**



CHING





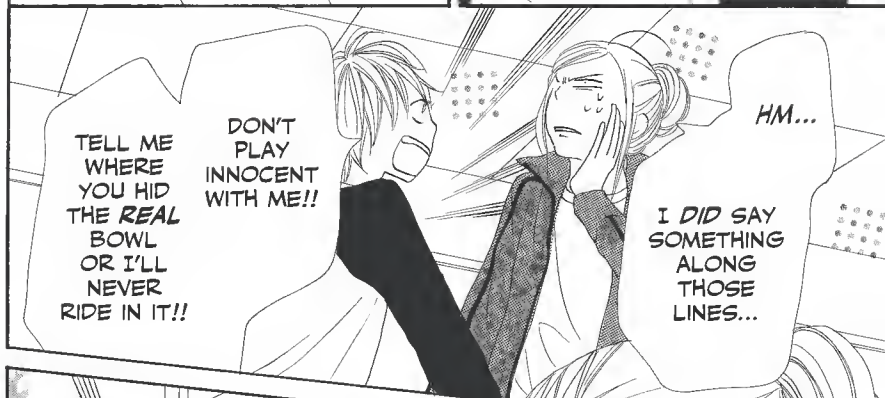
YOU
SAID
SOME-
THING
EARLIER
ABOUT
MAKING
ME RIDE
IN A
BOWL
OF MISO
SOUP!

IS THIS
YOU
AGAIN,
KOIZUMI?

HUH?



WHY
WOULD
ANYONE
DO
THIS?



TELL ME
WHERE
YOU HID
THE **REAL**
BOWL
OR I'LL
NEVER
RIDE IN IT!!

DON'T
PLAY
INNOCENT
WITH ME!!

HM...

I **DID** SAY
SOMETHING
ALONG
THOSE
LINES...

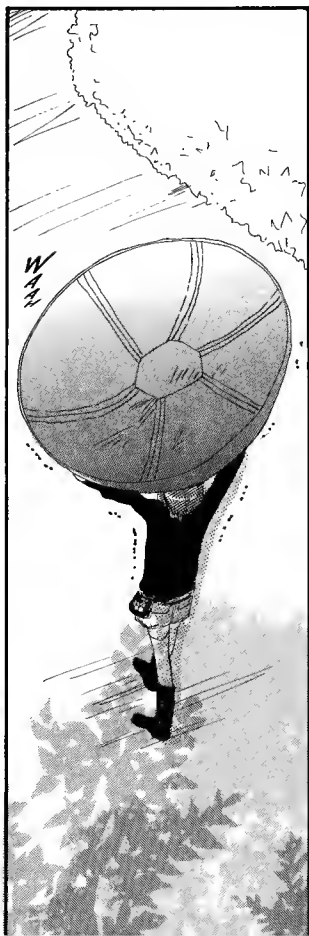
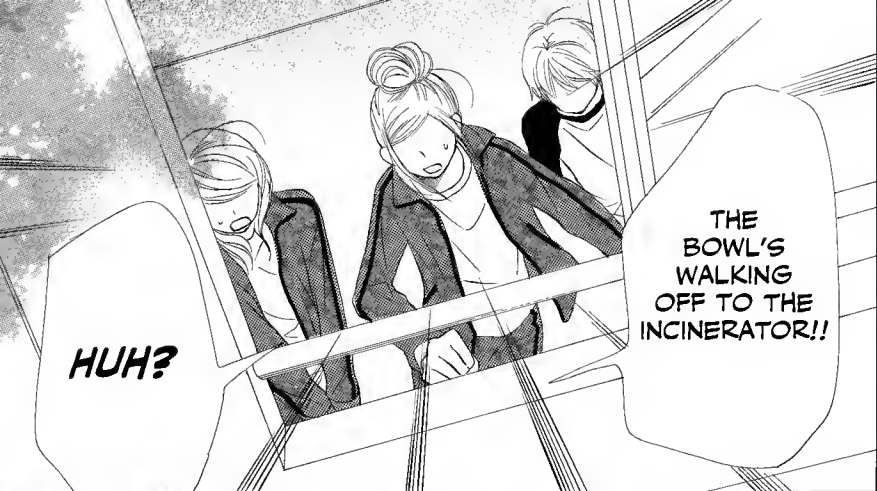


HEY!
THE
BOWL!!

WHO
WOULD
DO A
ROTTEN
THING
LIKE...



IT
WASN'T
ME!!





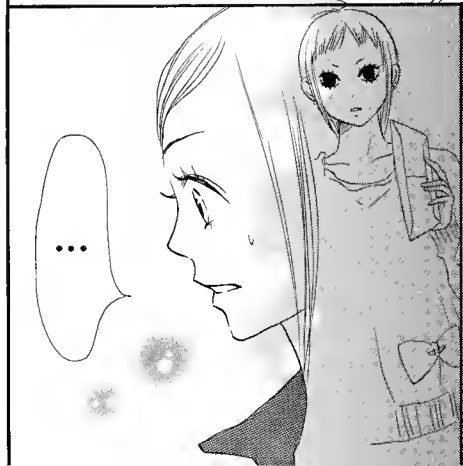
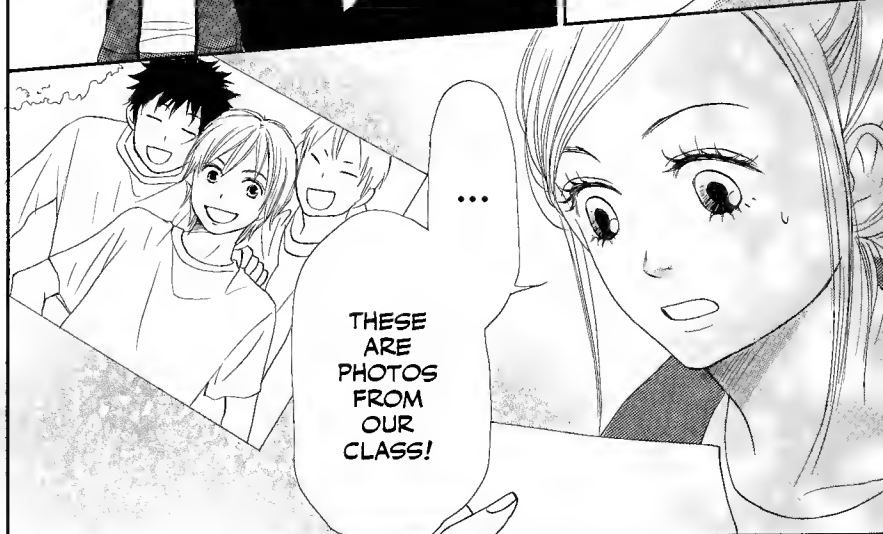
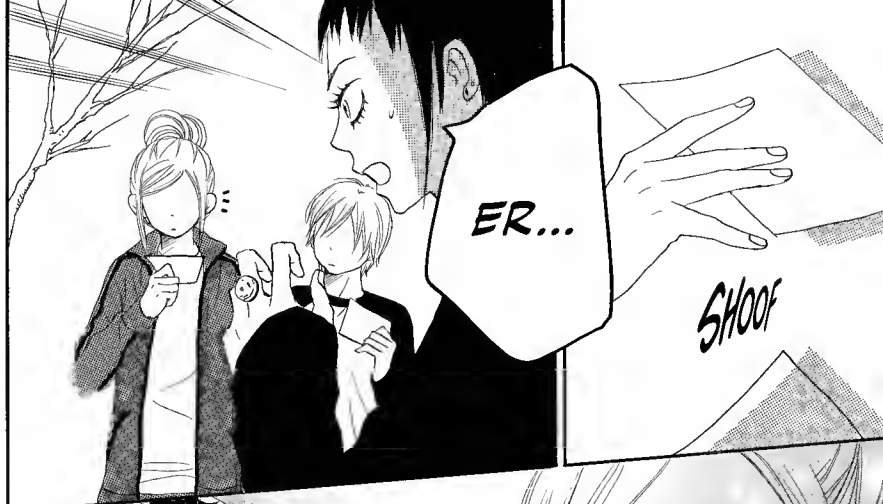
ABE-
SAN?



FOR ÔTANI

BUT
WHY?









...WITH
THIS
LOSER
SO YOU
CAN
GO OUT
WITH
KOHORI-
SAN.

I
WANT
YOU TO
BREAK
UP...

I
SEE,
ABE-
SAN.

YOU
REALLY
CARE
FOR
ÔTANI.




WHY'D
YOU
HAVE TO
BRING
HIM UP?

K...
KOHORI-
KUN?

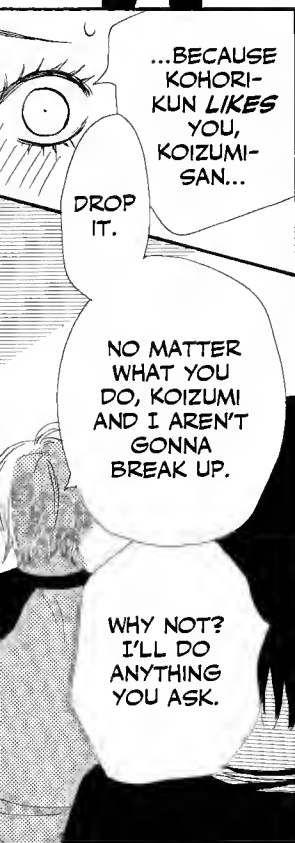


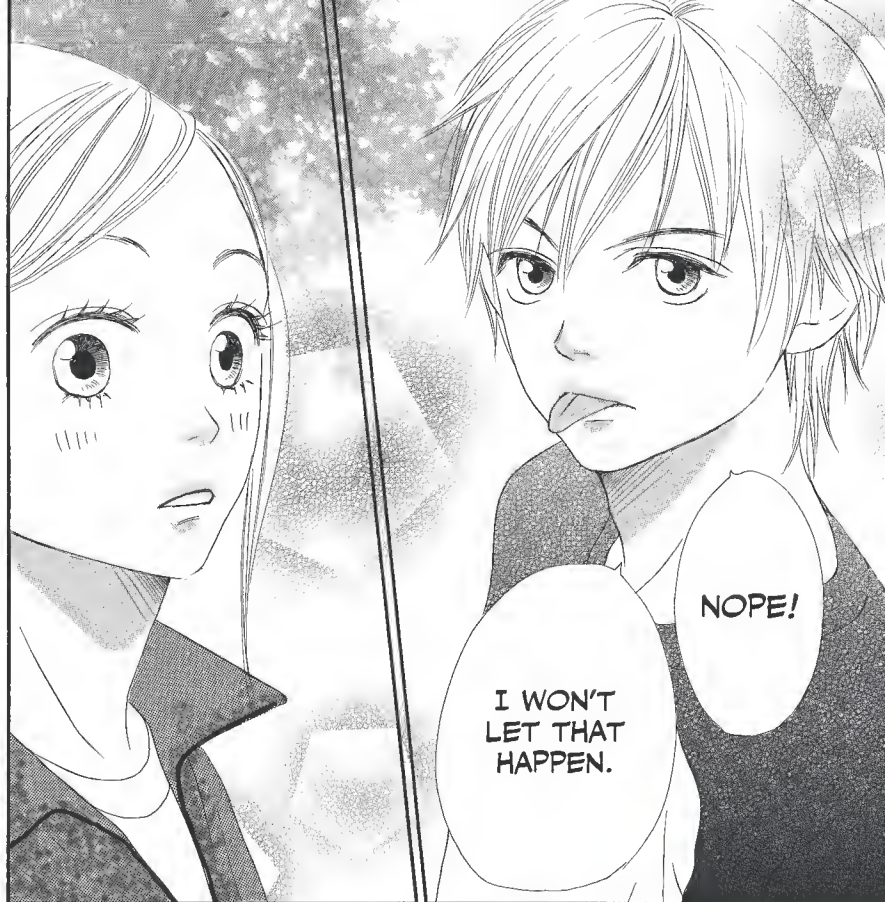
KOHORI-
SAN
LIKES
YOU,
KOIZUMI-
SAN.

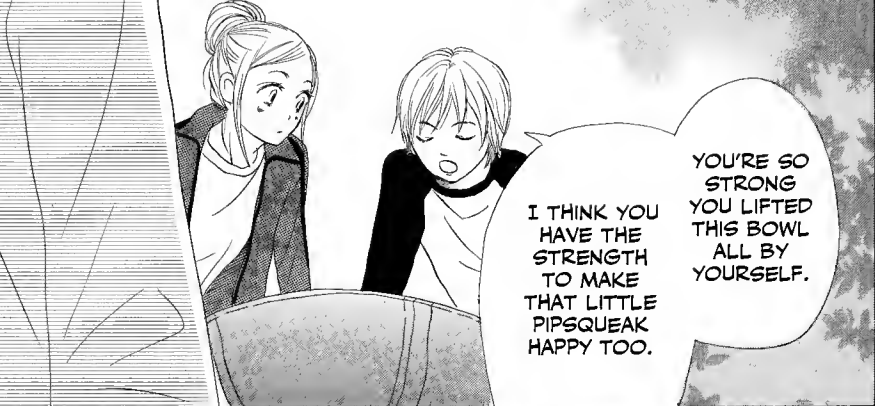


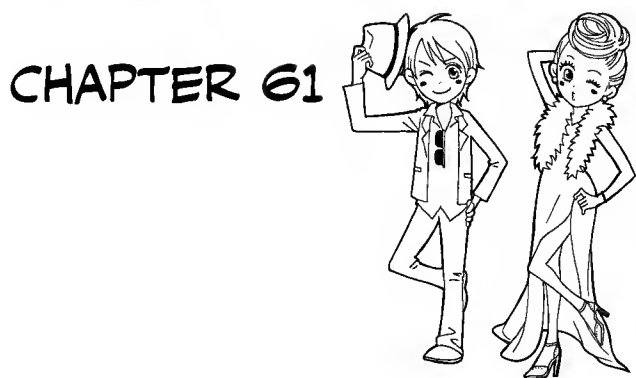
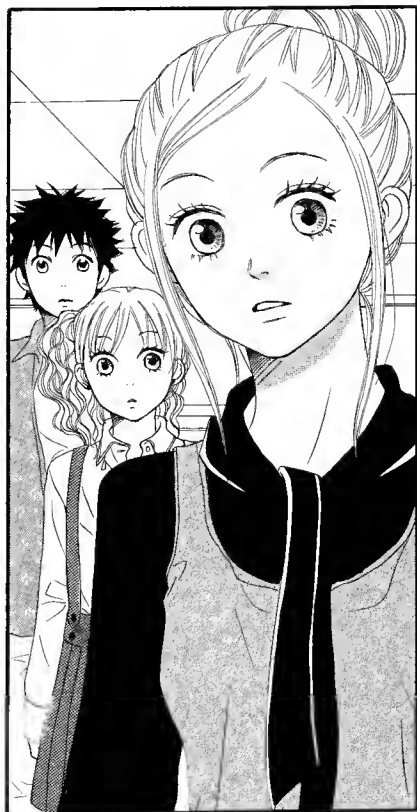
YOU'RE
THE ONLY
ONE WHO
CAN MAKE
HIM HAPPY.

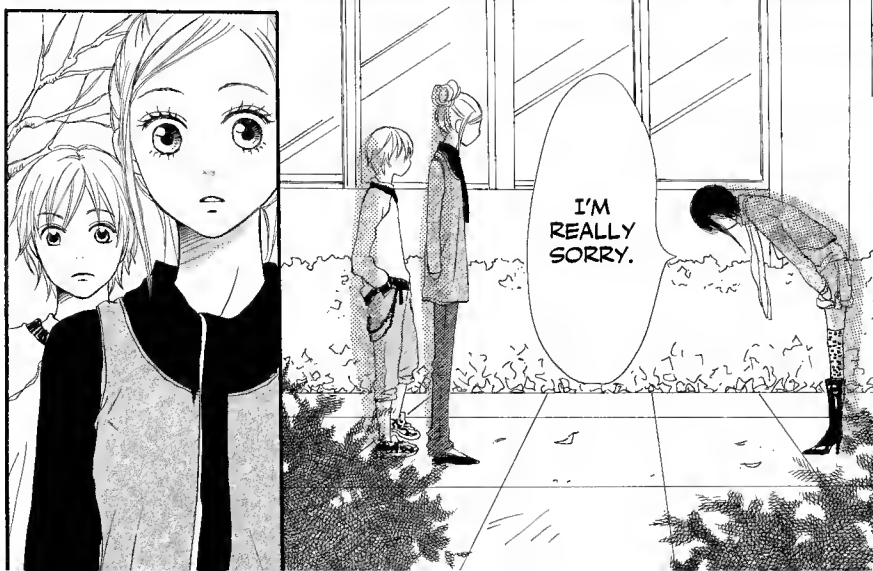
UM,
WHAT?













OH, I
DON'T
NEED
THAT
BACK.

IT'S THE
PHOTO
OF YOUR
BOY-
FRIEND.

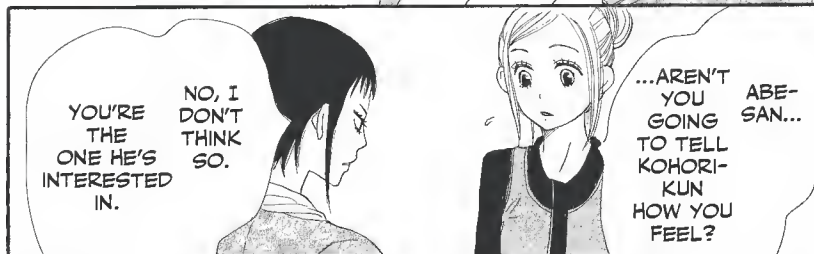
OF
COURSE
YOU DO!

I'M
RETURN-
ING
THIS.



...IT
WAS ALL
BECAUSE
OF HER
CRUSH ON
KOHORI-
KUN.

SHE
WANTED
TO BREAK
US UP
TO MAKE
KOHORI-
KUN HAPPY.



YOU'RE
THE
ONE HE'S
INTERESTED
IN.

NO, I
DON'T
THINK
SO.

...AREN'T
YOU
GOING
TO TELL
KOHORI-
KUN
HOW YOU
FEEL?

ABE-
SAN...



SHUT UP,
MICRO-
BOSHI!

HA
HA HA!
SO
TRUE!

HEY, I
KINDA
LIKE
THAT
ONE.

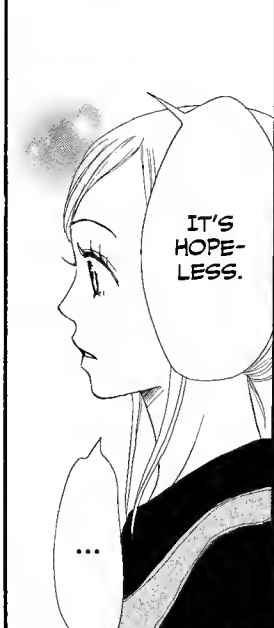
YOUR VERY
PRESENCE
IS A JOKE.

YOU'RE
FUNNY
AND
FUN.

...YOU
MAKE
PEOPLE
LAUGH
JUST BY
BEING
AROUND.

KOIZUMI-
SAN...

BUT...



IT'S
HOPE-
LESS.

...



I DON'T
HAVE A
CHANCE.

...I HAVE
SAD PUPPY
EYES, I'M
NO GOOD AT
TALKING AND
EVERYONE
THINKS I'M
BORING.

AS
FOR
ME...



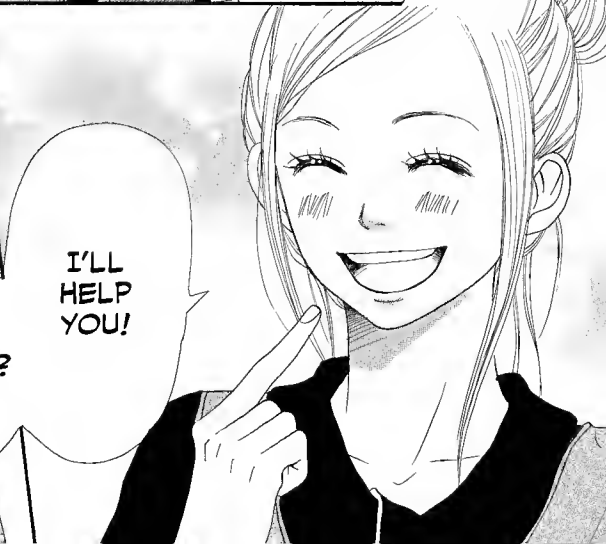
BUT...

BUT
YOU'LL
NEVER
KNOW
UNLESS
YOU TRY!

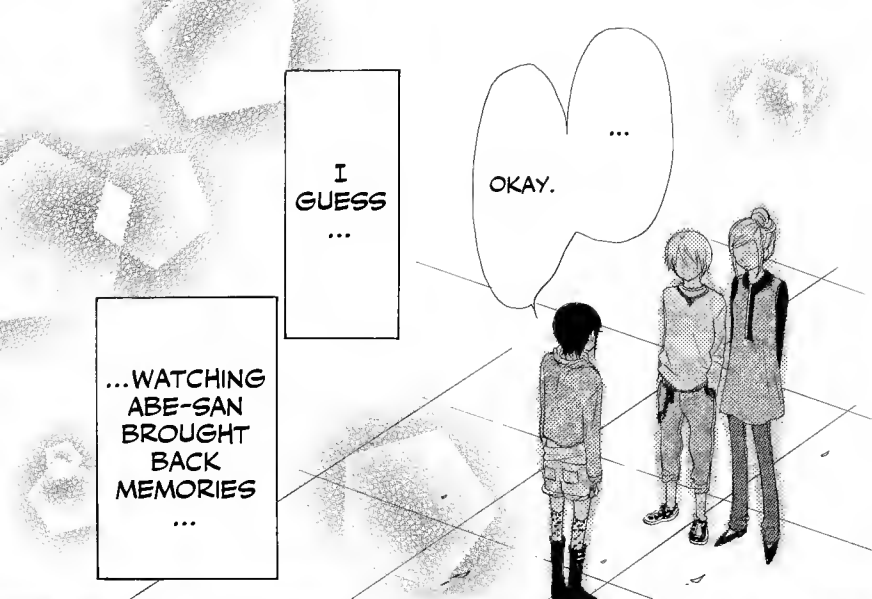
NO IT'S
NOT!



OKAY?



I'LL
HELP
YOU!



I
GUESS

...

OKAY.

...WATCHING
ABE-SAN
BROUGHT
BACK
MEMORIES

...

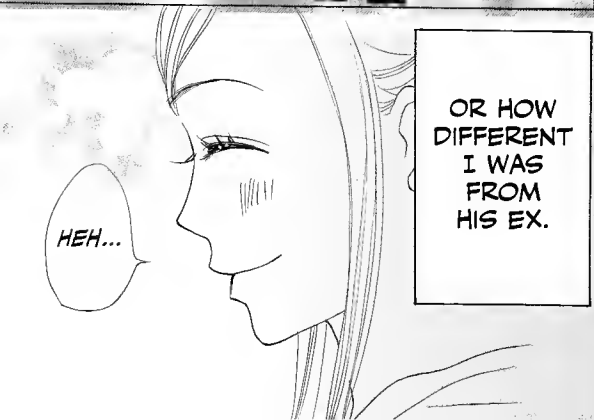


OR THE
WAY WE
FOUGHT
LIKE
CATS AND
DOGS.

LIKE THE
DIFFER-
ENCE
IN OUR
HEIGHT.

...OF
THE DAYS
WHEN
I FIRST
FELL FOR
ÔTANI.

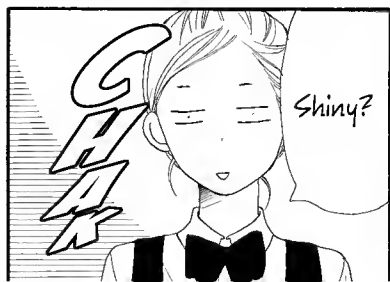
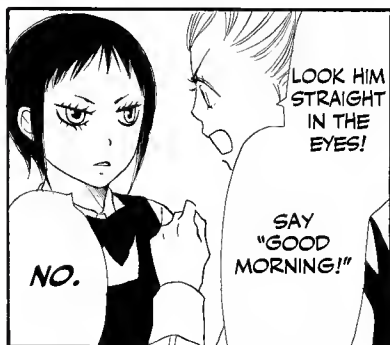
MAN,
I USED
TO FREAK
OUT OVER
EVERY
LITTLE
THING.



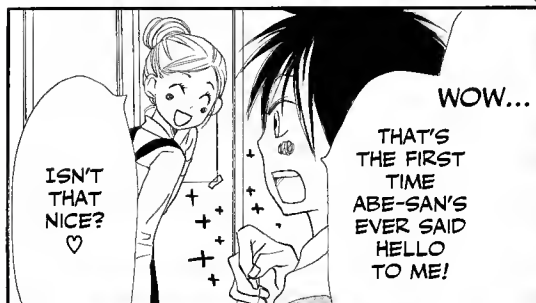
HEH...

OR HOW
DIFFERENT
I WAS
FROM
HIS EX.

HUH?







GO
FOR
IT,
ABE-
SAN!

UM...
YEAH...

PRETTY
INCRED-
IBLE,
HUH?



IN
WHAT
WAY?

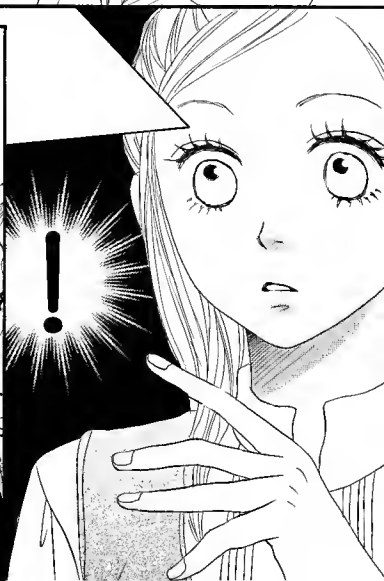
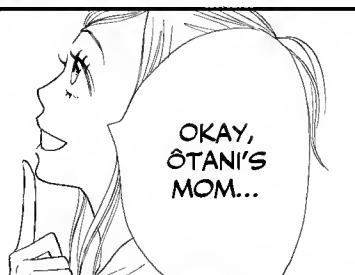
HE'S A
SUPER
NICE KID.

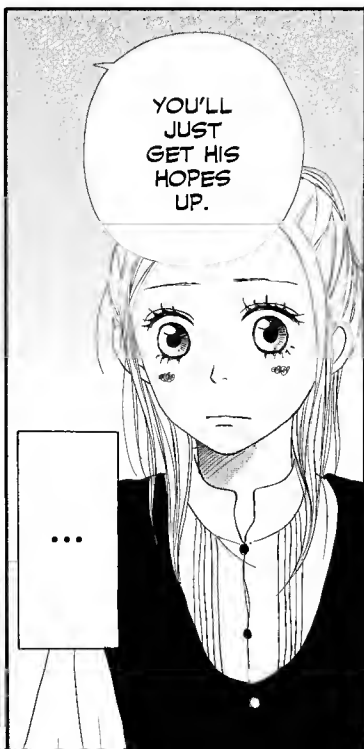
RISA...
ÔTANI-
KUN...

SIGH

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND
WHAT SHE
SEES IN
THAT TWERP
KOHORI.

I THINK
THEY'D
MAKE A
REALLY
CUTE
COUPLE.








TO BE
HONEST,
I'D LIKE
TO SEE
THEM
HOOK UP
TOO.

...I DON'T
HAVE TO
WORRY
ABOUT HIM
PUTTING
THE MOVES
ON YOU.

IF THE
SHRIMP
FALLS
FOR
ABE-
SAN...



REALLY?
WHY?



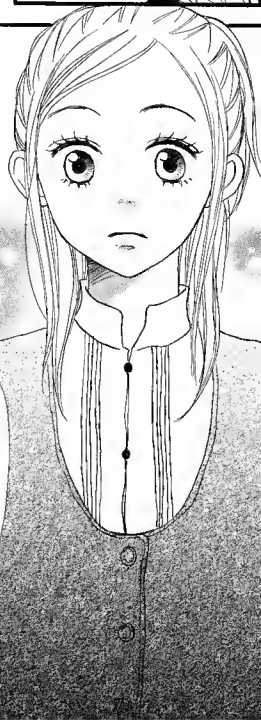
How
sweet.

IS HE
WORKING
TODAY?



JUST A
LITTLE!
HARDLY
AT ALL!

AWW,
DO YOU
WORRY
ABOUT
THAT?





ALL
RIGHT.

YUP.

SO
AM I.

THE
PLAN HAS
LAUNCHED.



TAKE
IT.

WHAT'S
THAT?



I'M IN
A PLAY.
COME
WITNESS
MY
STUNNING
PERFORMANCE.

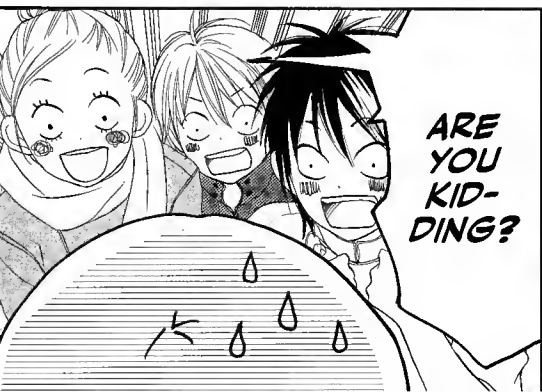
A
GRADUA-
TION
PARTY?

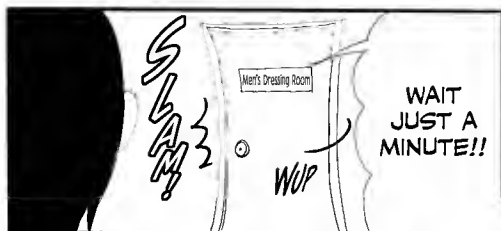
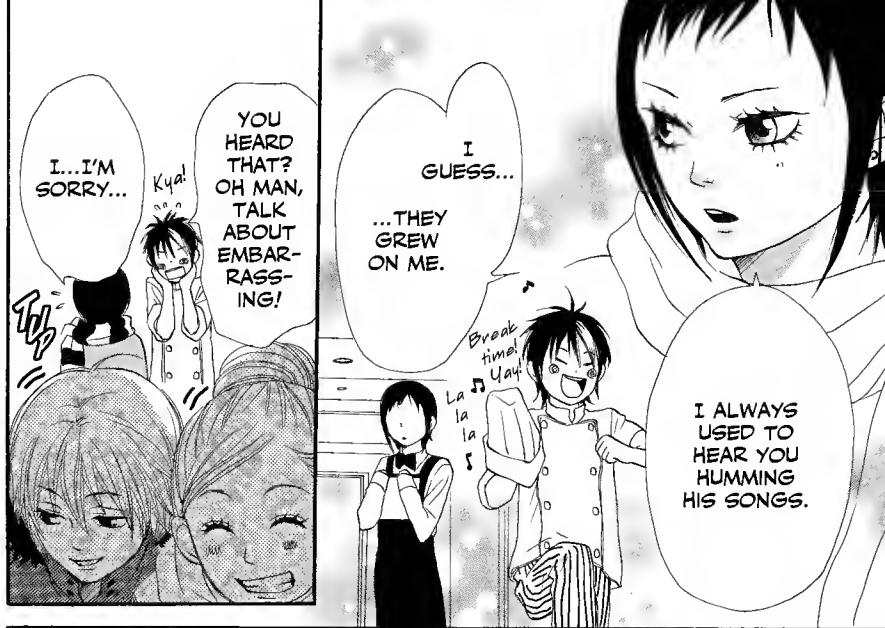


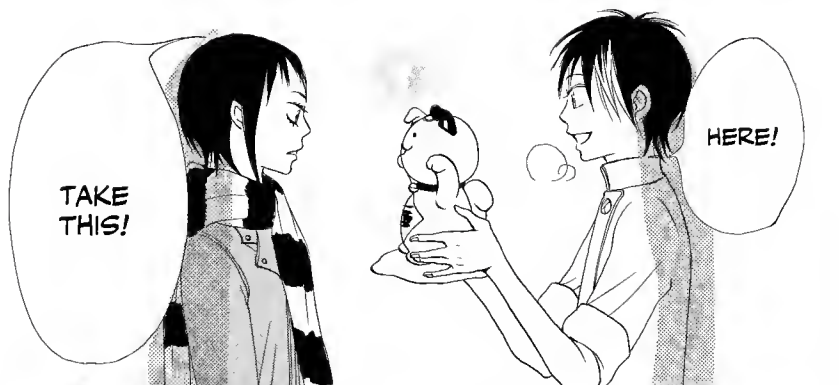
YO.
☆

HUH?







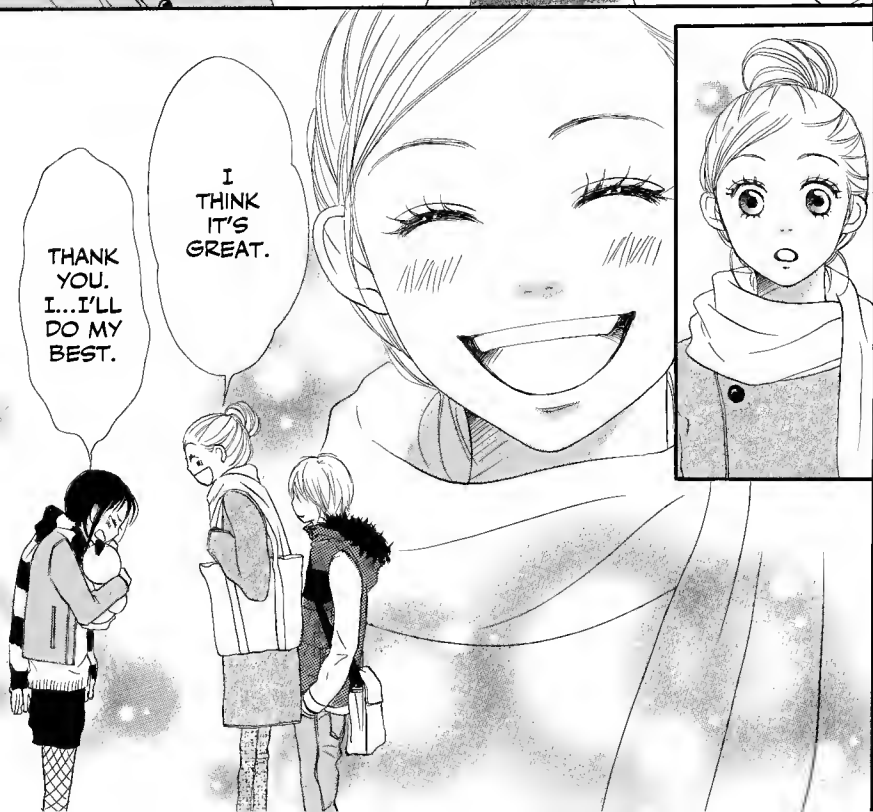




I'VE
NEVER
SPOKEN
THIS
MUCH.

I'VE...

A DOG OF
HAPPINESS...



THANK
YOU.
I...I'LL
DO MY
BEST.

I
THINK
IT'S
GREAT.





NEVER
SAY IT'S
HOPE-
LESS.
NEVER
GIVE UP.

GW

GOOD
LUCK.



Graduation Party
Meet in the gym

KOIZUMI
SENPAI!

RISA!



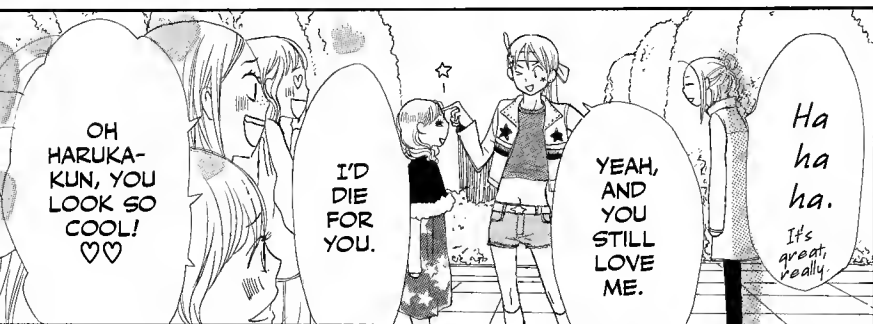
DOESN'T
HE LOOK
WAY
TACKY? I
DESIGNED
IT MYSELF.

OUR
CLASS IS
GONNA
DANCE.



W...
What's
with that
getup,
Haruka?

IS IT
TRUE THE
SHRIMP'S
PLAYING
ISSUN-
BÔSHI?



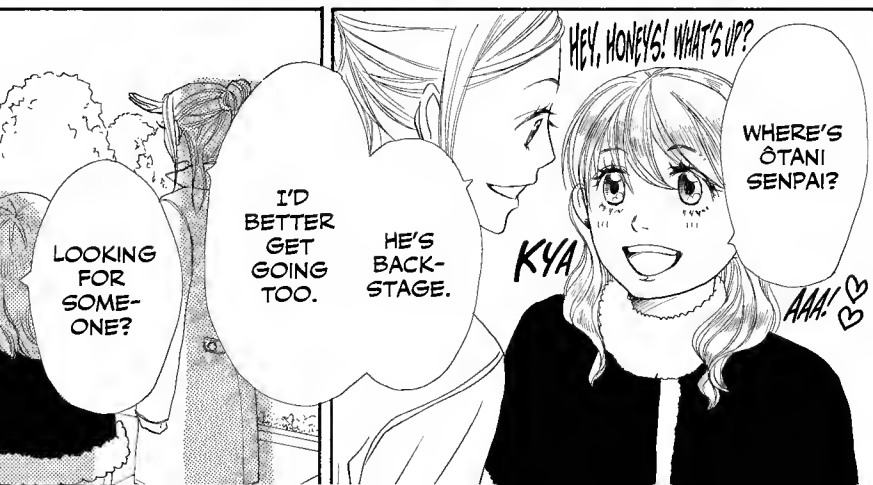
OH
HARUKA-
KUN, YOU
LOOK SO
COOL!
♡♡

I'D
DIE
FOR YOU.

YEAH,
AND YOU
STILL
LOVE
ME.

Ha
ha
ha.

It's
great,
really.



LOOKING
FOR
SOME-
ONE?

I'D
BETTER
GET
GOING
TOO.

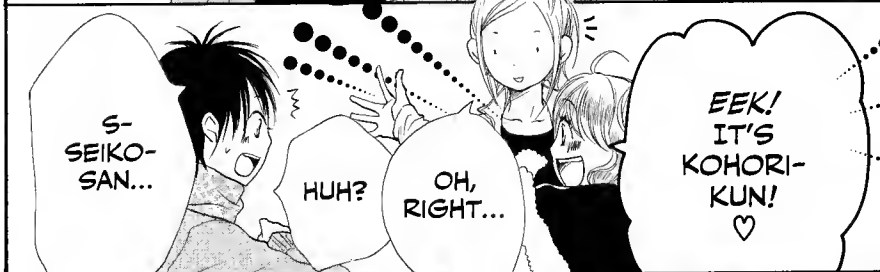
HE'S
BACK-
STAGE.

HEY, HONEY'S! WHAT'S UP?

WHERE'S
ÔTANI
SENPAI?

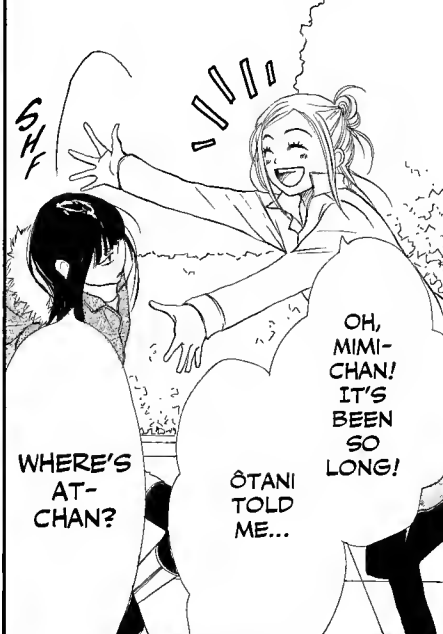
KYA

AAA! ♡





HEY, SIS.
WHERE'S
ÔTANI?



WHERE'S
AT-
CHAN?

OH,
MIMI-
CHAN!
IT'S
BEEN
SO
LONG!

ÔTANI
TOLD
ME...



MAKE
WAY,
PEONS!

ISSUNBÔSHI
APPROACHES!

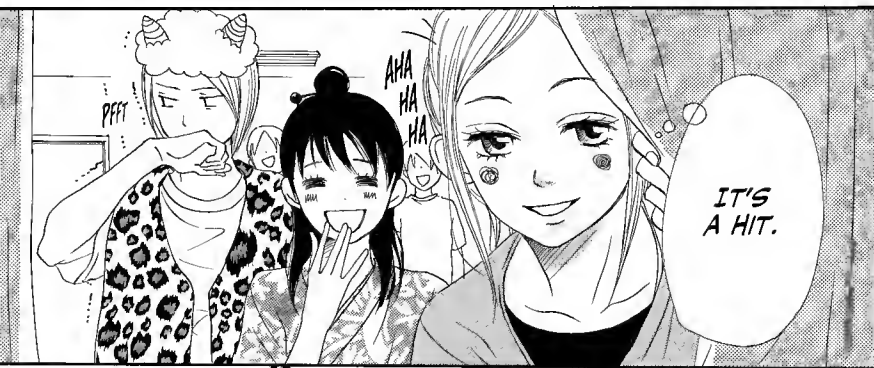
ISSUNBÔSHI
APPROACHES!

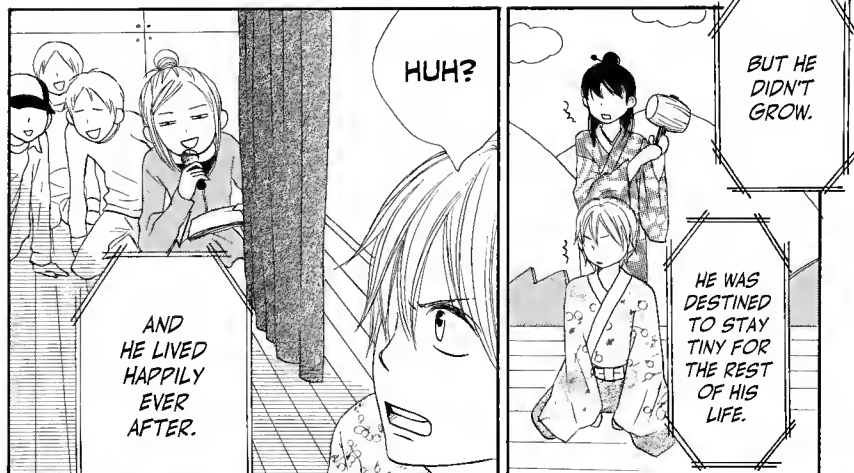


WE'LL
BE UP
SOON!

JUST
TAKE
YOUR
SEATS
IN THE
GYM.





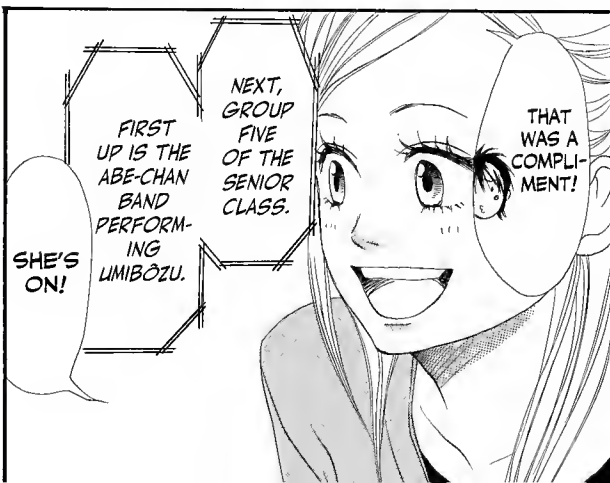


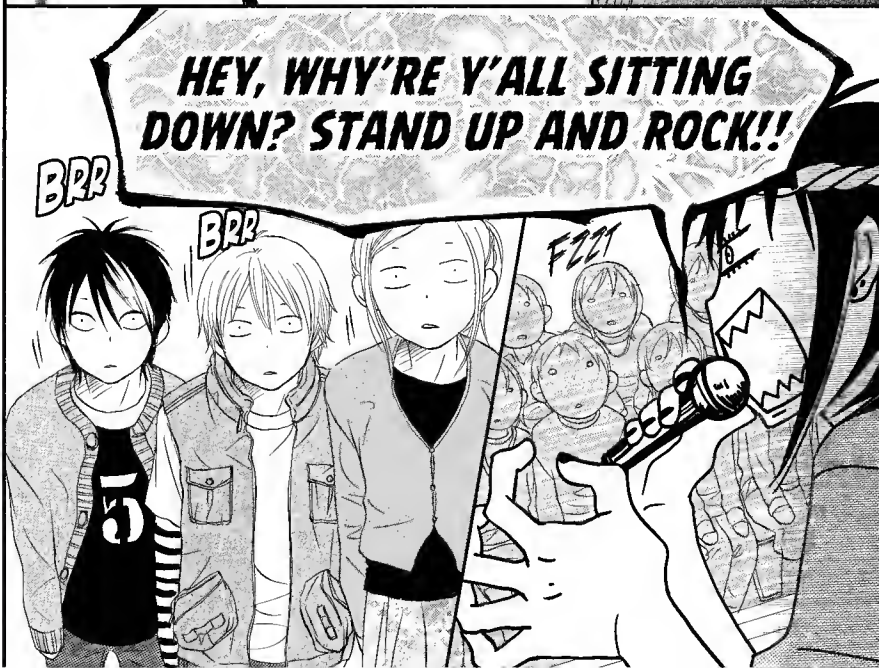
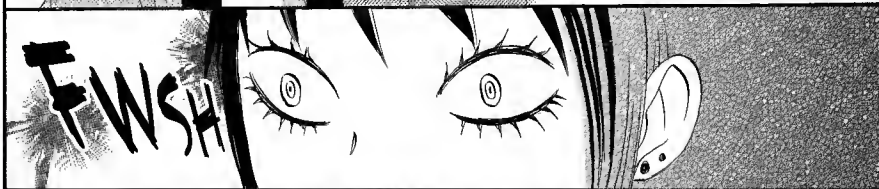


Hi, it's me, Nakahara.
Hey...volume 1b!
If you've got this
one, you've got
the ending!
But they're letting
me do another
volume with bonus
stories, so please
check that out too.
I'm drawing the
bonus stuff now.
This long series is
finally nearing its
end! I guess I should
be reminiscing about
everything that
happened to me...
But nothing comes
to mind. Okay,
I'll do it in volume 17!

So...Love*Com
ran for five years.
For the first time
in five years, I don't
have a deadline
coming up. I'm not
feeling well. I look
so gaunt. When I
was drawing manga,
I was never sick!

To be continued...



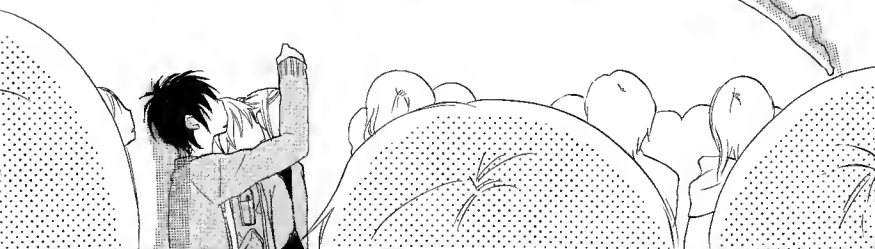




I THINK
IT'S ALL
GONNA
WORK...

LOOK
AT
THAT.

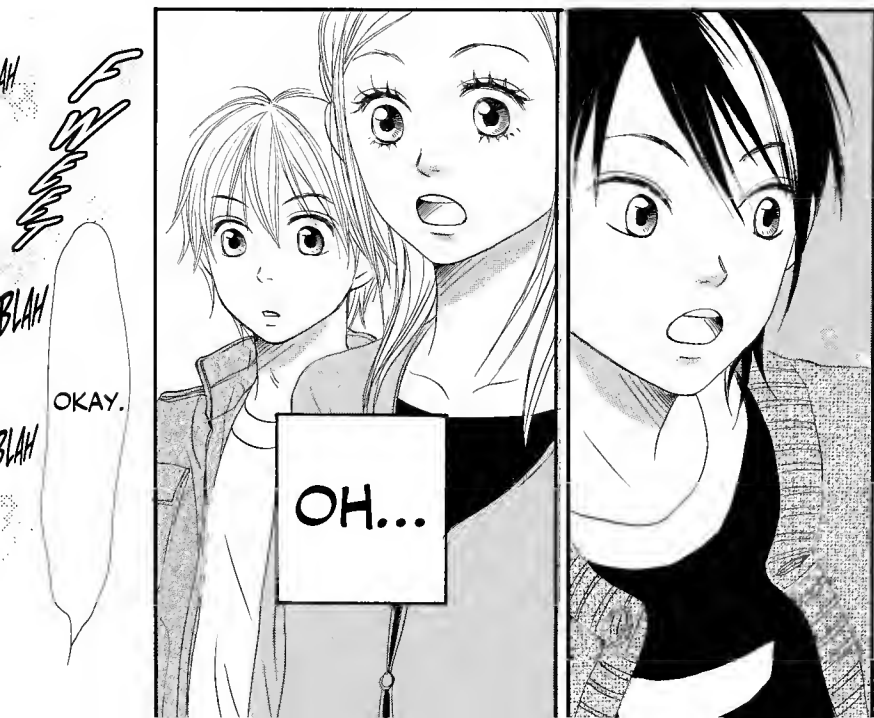
...OUT.



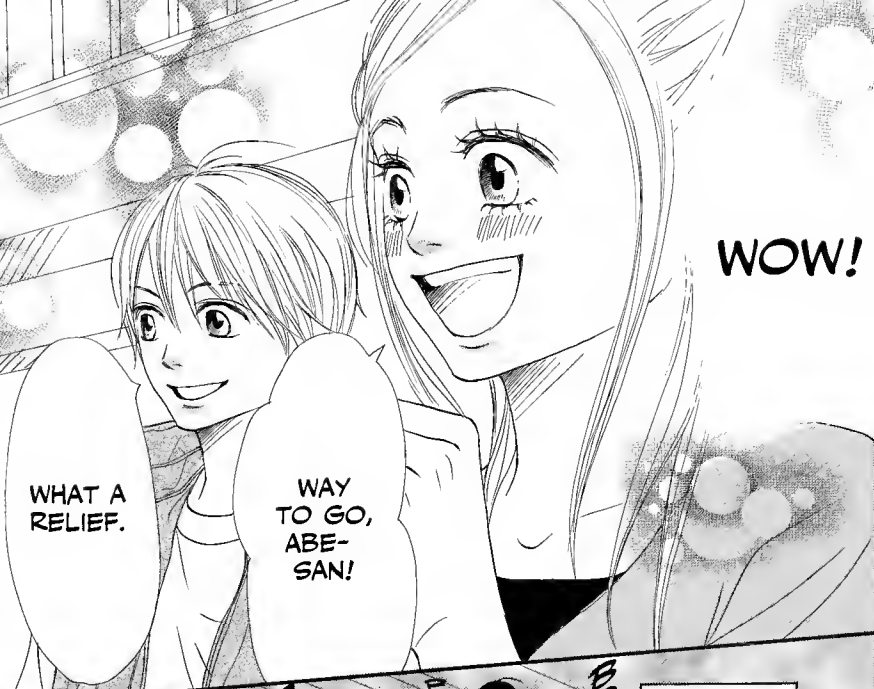
CRASH!!

KRK
KRK
KRK









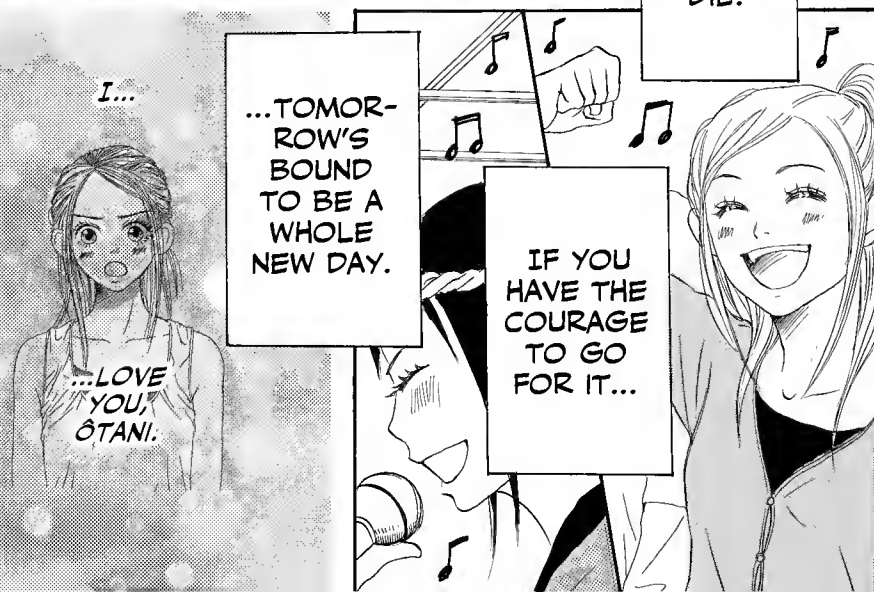
WOW!

WHAT A
RELIEF.

WAY
TO GO,
ABE-
SAN!



NEVER
SAY
DIE.

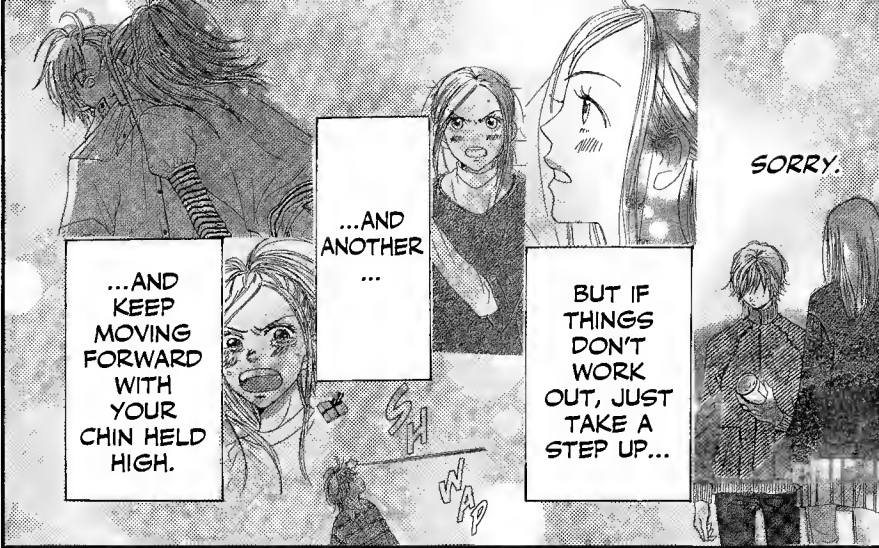


I...

...TOMOR-
ROW'S
BOUND
TO BE A
WHOLE
NEW DAY.

...LOVE
YOU,
ÔTANI.

IF YOU
HAVE THE
COURAGE
TO GO
FOR IT...



...AND
KEEP
MOVING
FORWARD
WITH
YOUR
CHIN HELD
HIGH.

...AND
ANOTHER
...

BUT IF
THINGS
DON'T
WORK
OUT, JUST
TAKE A
STEP UP...

SORRY.



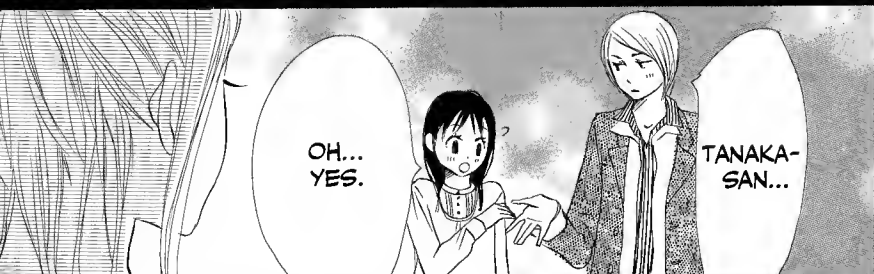
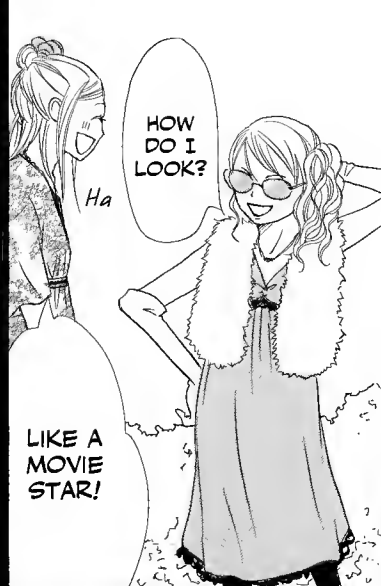
ONE DAY
SOME-
THING
GOOD IS
BOUND
TO
HAPPEN.



OKAY!

THE
DANCING'S
GONNA
START!

HURRY!



HERE!

ALL
RIGHT,
ALL
RIGHT!

SHING

HUH?

...I'D BE
GRADUATING
TODAY
WITH ALL
KINDS OF
REGRETS.

IF I'D
GIVEN
UP ON
YOU...



I'M
GLAD I
HUNG IN
THERE!



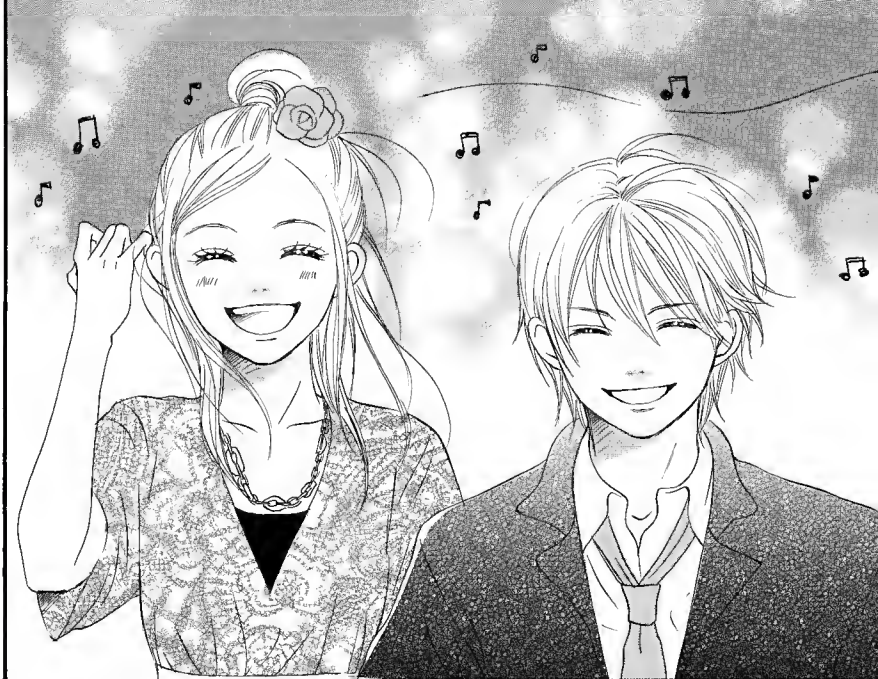
...WE
ENDED
UP HAVING
A LOT
OF FUN.

THANKS
TO YOU
HANGING
IN THERE...



DON'T
FLATTER
YOURSELF.

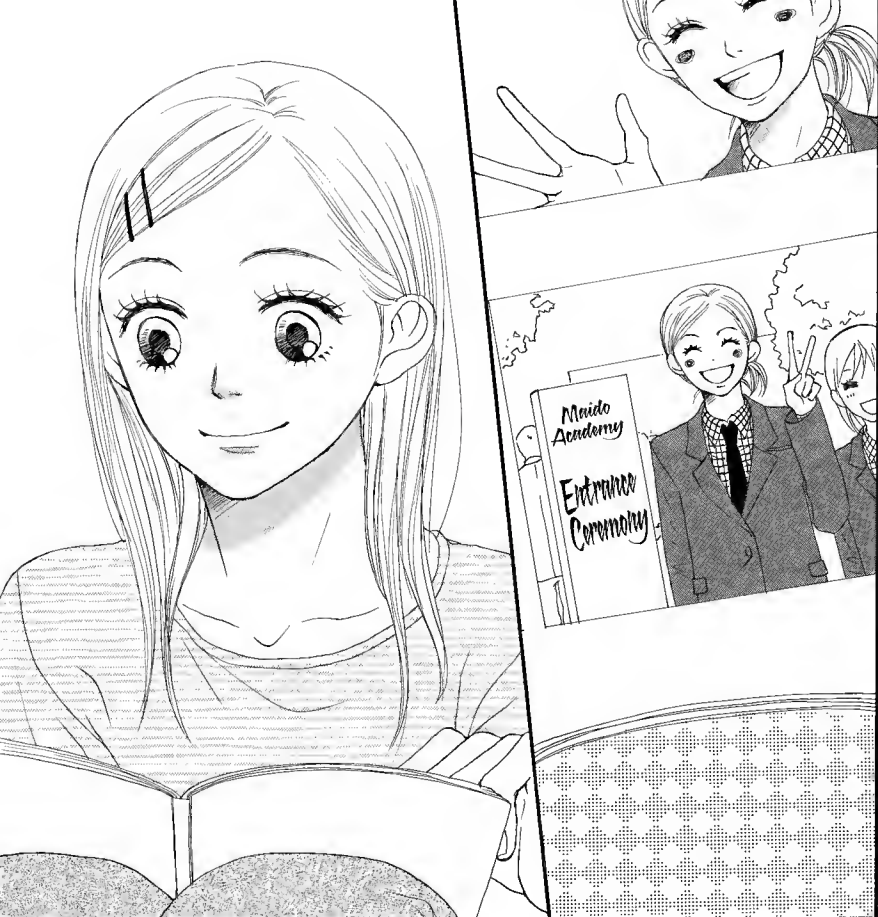
I
KNOW!
YOU
OWE IT
ALL TO
ME!



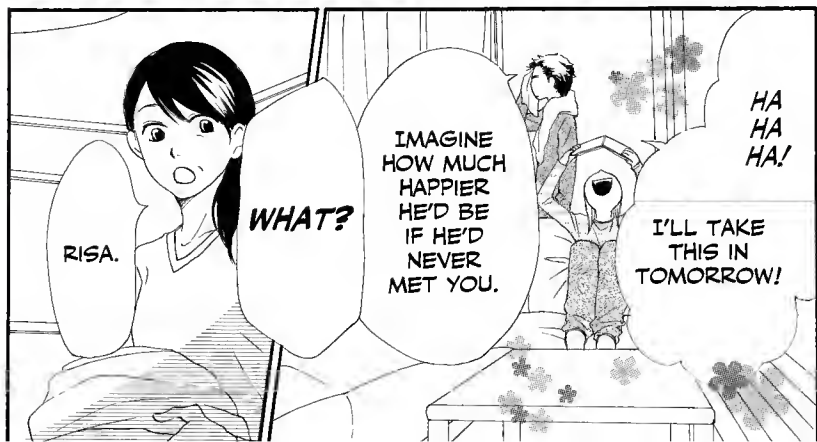
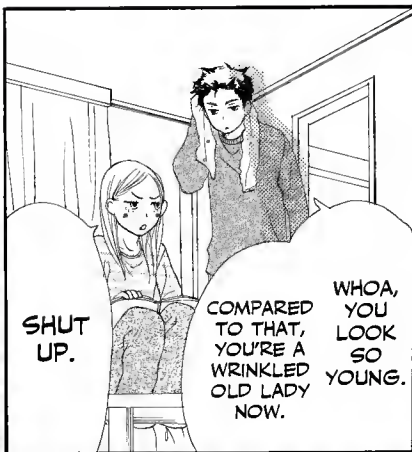
TIME
TO
LEAVE
THE
PLACE...

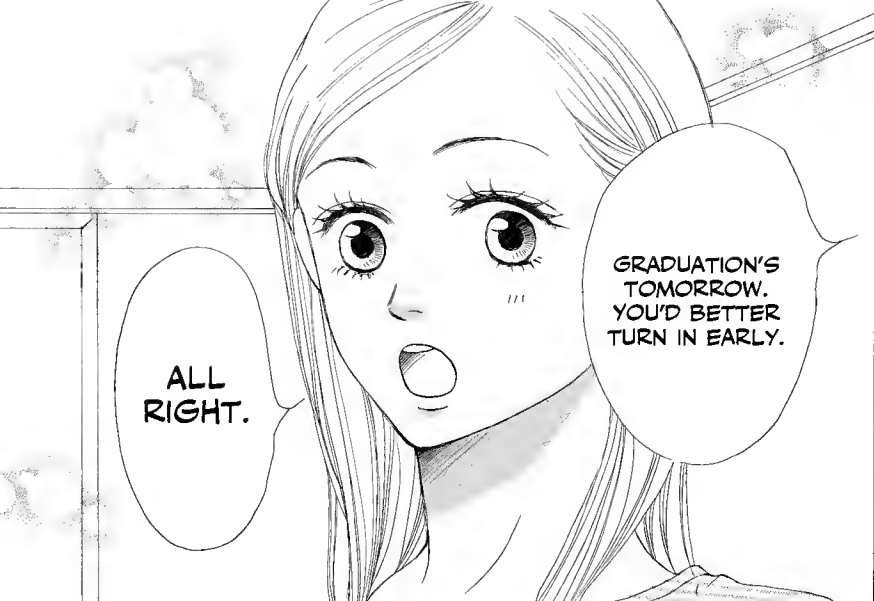
...WHERE
I MET
ALL MY
FRIENDS...
AND ÔTANI.

IT'S
FINALLY
GRADUA-
TION DAY.



CHAPTER 62





chirp chirp

HOW
SAD...

NO
MATTER
WHAT...

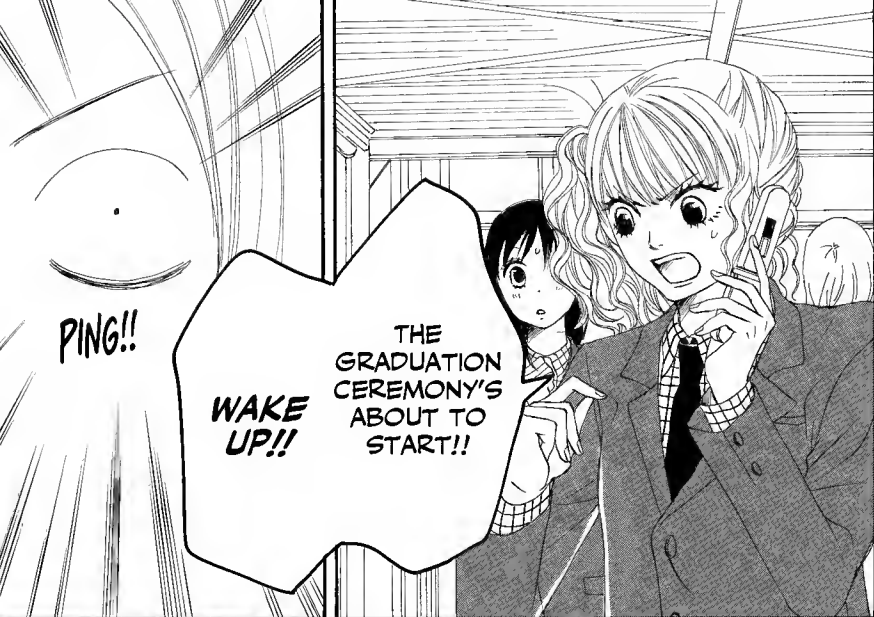
TOMORROW
IT ALL
ENDS.



WHAT'RE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT,
RISA?

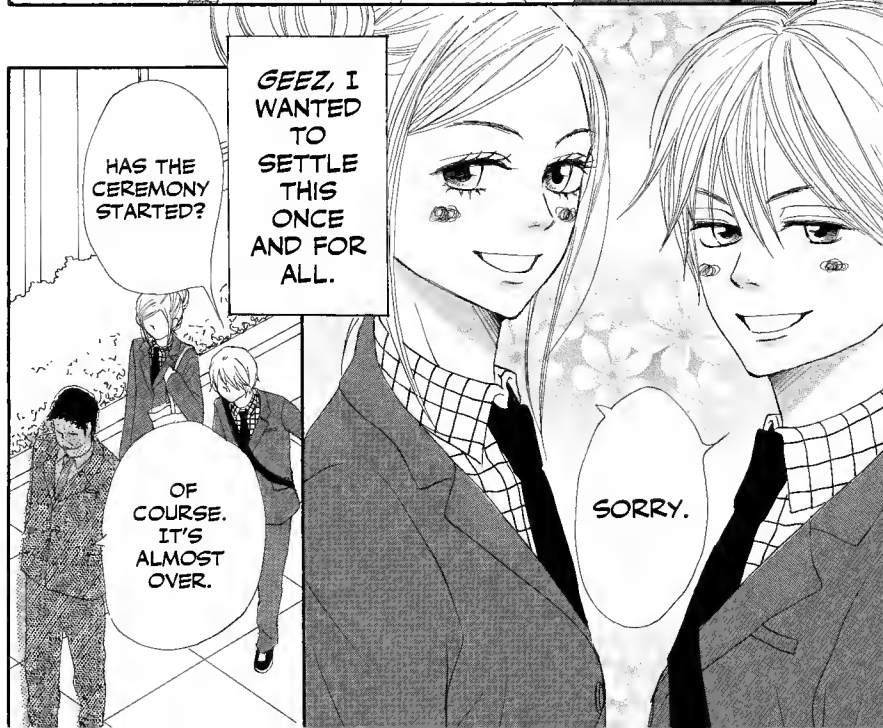
HRR...
URGH...
WHAT
COLOR
PANTS
ARE YOU
WEARING?

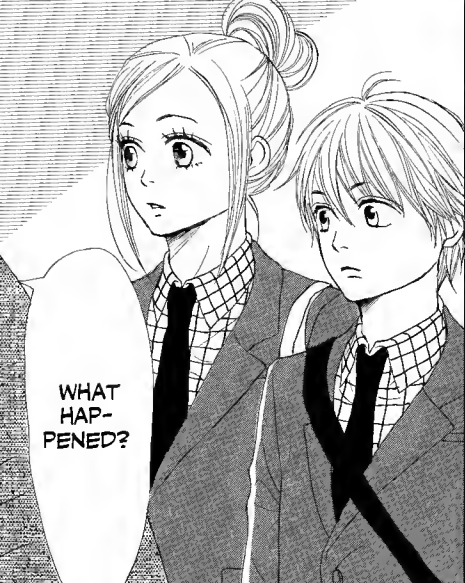
PIP













THERE'S
NO WAY
WE CAN
DO
THAT!!

I DON'T
HAVE
TIME TO
FIND A
REPLACE-
MENT.



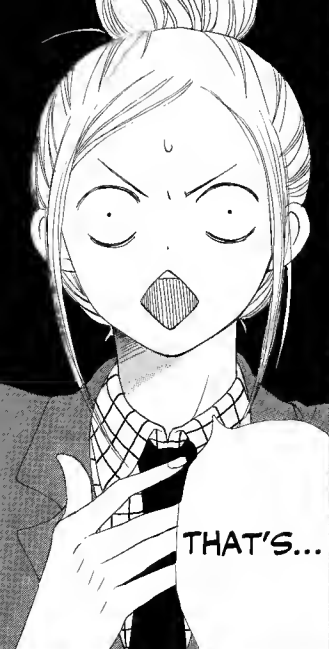
I DON'T
KNOW
ANY-
THING
ABOUT
PUBLIC
SPEAK-
ING!!

BETTER
HURRY.
HE WAS
SUPPOSED
TO GIVE HIS
SPEECH
NOW.



I WANT
YOU TWO
TO GO
ONSTAGE AND
REPRESENT
THE ENTIRE
GRADUATING
CLASS.

?!
HUH?

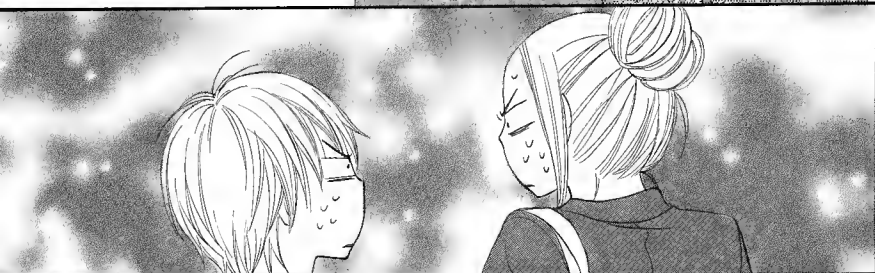


THAT'S...



DON'T
WORRY.
YOU JUST
HAVE TO
READ
THIS.

CONSIDER
IT YOUR
PUNISHMENT
FOR BEING
LATE.
NOW GO.



JUST A
MINUTE.

NOW
YOUR
CLASS
REPRESENTATIVE...

...A
MESSAGE
FROM THE
STUDENTS.

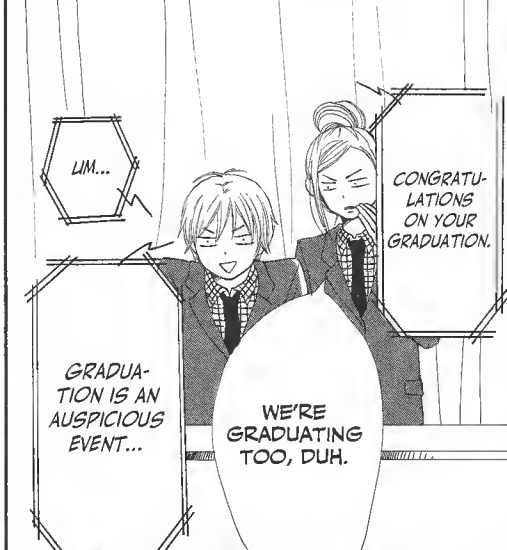
NEXT
UP...

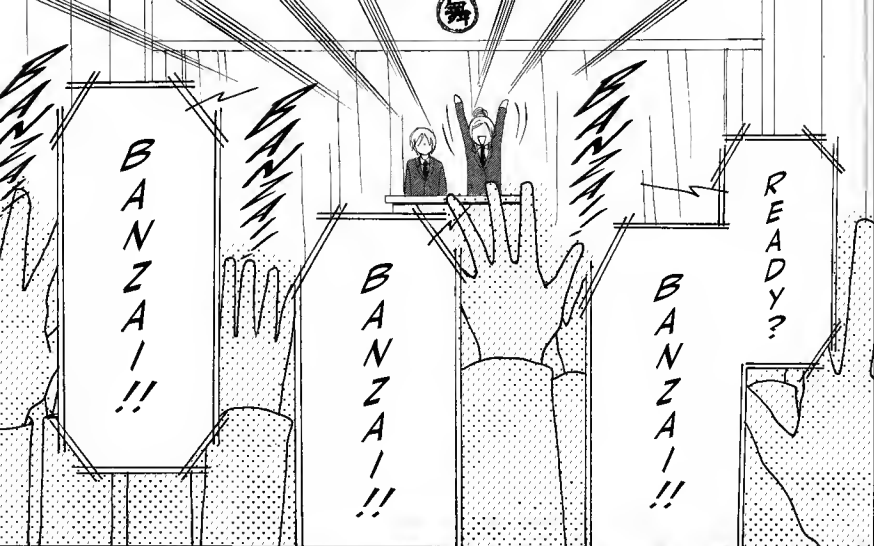
THAT'S
RIDICU-
LOUS!!

OH?











OH...

BUT
EVERYTHING
STILL SEEMS
THE SAME.
I DON'T FEEL
LIKE WE'VE
GRADUATED.



I DON'T
WANT
GRADUA-
TION TO
GET ME
DOWN.

YOU'RE
RIGHT.



NOTHING
WRONG
WITH
THAT.

SO
WHAT IF
IT'S THE
SAME?



CONGRATULATIONS
ON YOUR
GRADUATION.

WE CAN
GO ON
LAUGHING
LIKE WE
ALWAYS
HAVE.

WELL
...



CH/K

HUH?

I DIDN'T
HEAR
ANYTHING
ABOUT...



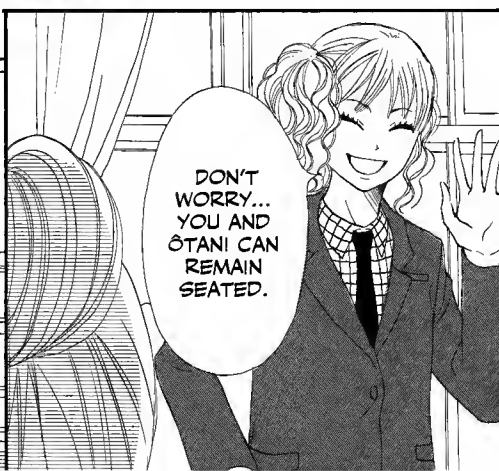
BUT...

...OUR
GRADUATION
COMMITTEE
HAS SOME-
THING
SPECIAL
PLANNED.

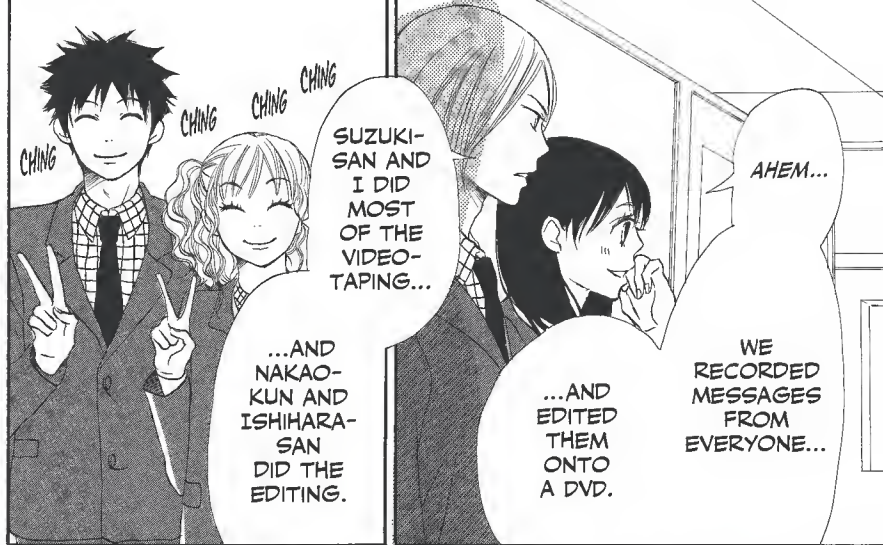
BEFORE
I PASS
OUT YOUR
DIPLOMAS...

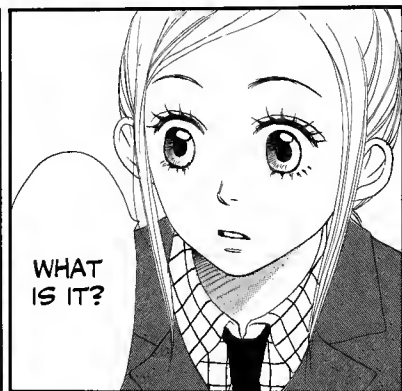
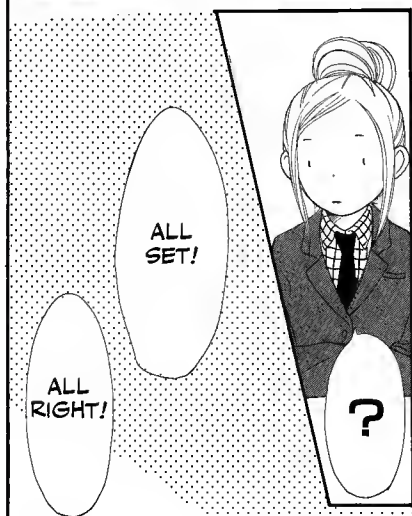
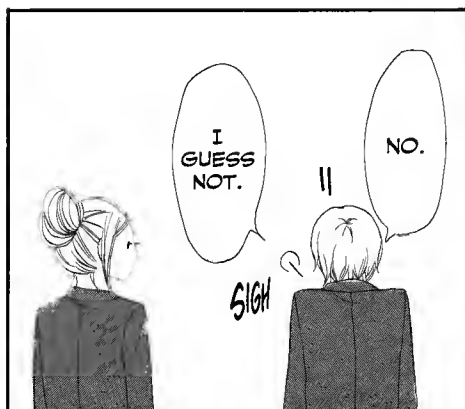


WHAT'RE
THEY
UP TO?



DON'T
WORRY...
YOU AND
ÔTANI CAN
REMAIN
SEATED.







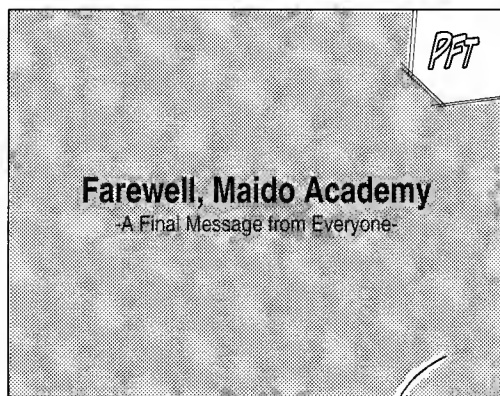
THOSE
THREE
YEARS...

...HAVE
BEEN FULL
OF HAPPY
TIMES,
SAD TIMES,
TOUGH
TIMES.

WE
VIDEO-
TAPED...

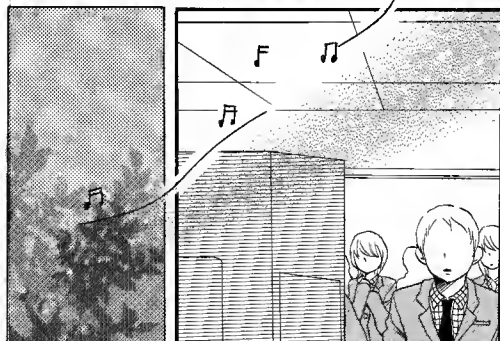
...MESSAGES
FROM OUR
FRIENDS AND
CLASSMATES...

...WHO
SHARED
THE LAST
THREE
YEARS
WITH US
HERE AT
SCHOOL.



Farewell, Maido Academy

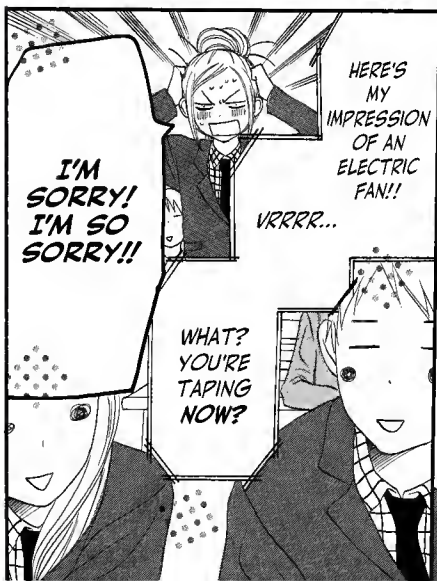
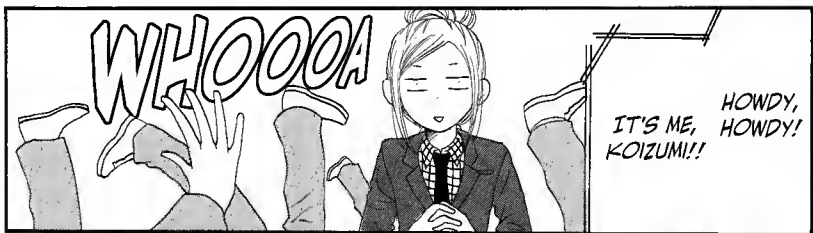
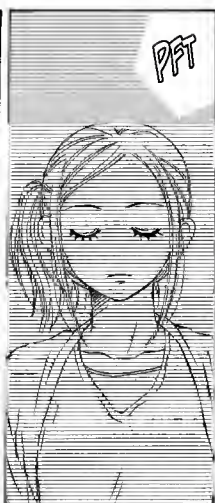
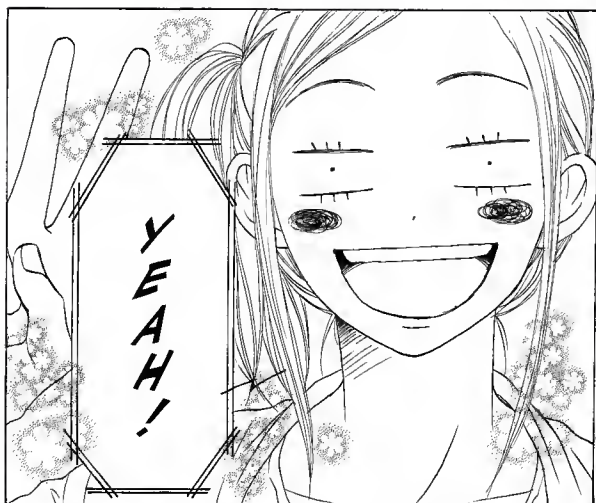
-A Final Message from Everyone-



BUT
IT ALL
COMES
TO AN
END
TODAY.

LET'S WATCH
AND SHARE
ALL THOSE
MEMORIES.

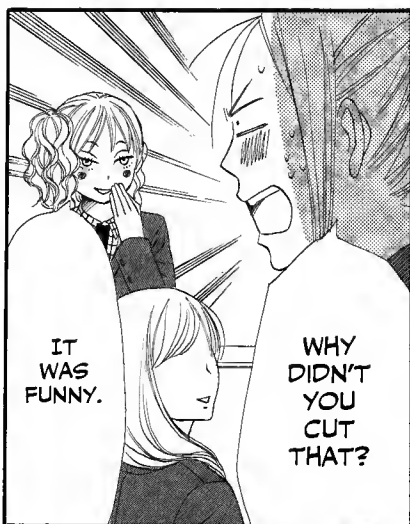






NO IT
WASN'T!!

THAT
WAS SO
LAME.



IT
WAS
FUNNY.

WHY
DIDN'T
YOU
CUT
THAT?



Y
E
A
H!



BUT
IT WAS
FUNNY...

I TOLD
YOU
TO EDIT
THAT
OUT!!

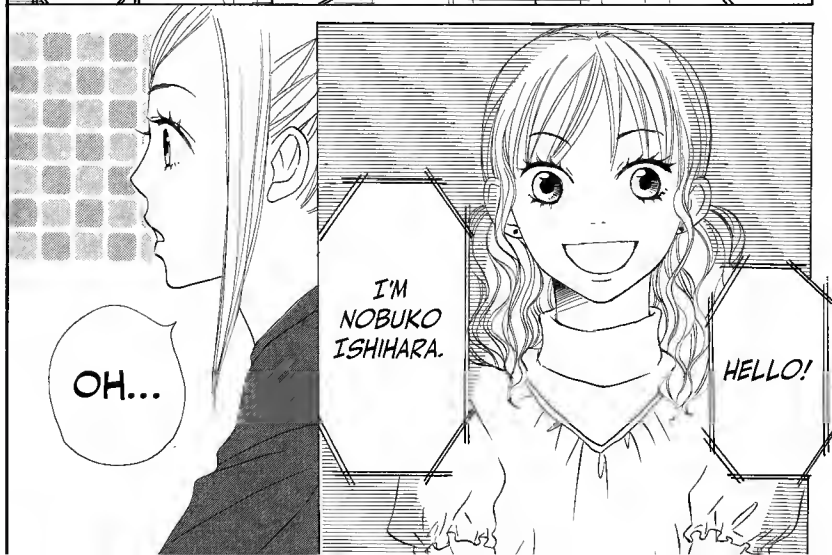
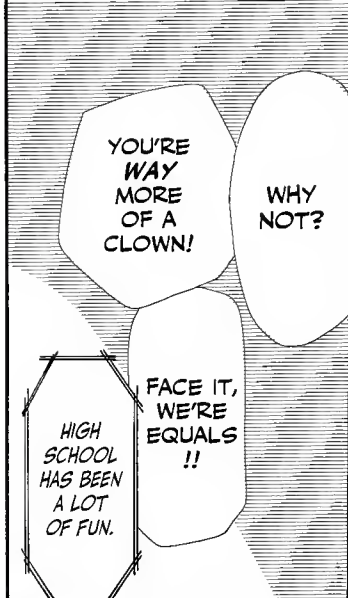
YOU'RE
NO
BETTER!!

WHAT?
YOU'RE
ALREADY
TAPING?



HEY...

NEXT
UP IS
OTANI-
KUN!



② ☺

I came down with food poisoning. I couldn't do a thing for a whole week. I guess during the five years I drew this comic, I developed a kind of rhythm in my life. Without a deadline hanging over my head, somehow things went out of whack.

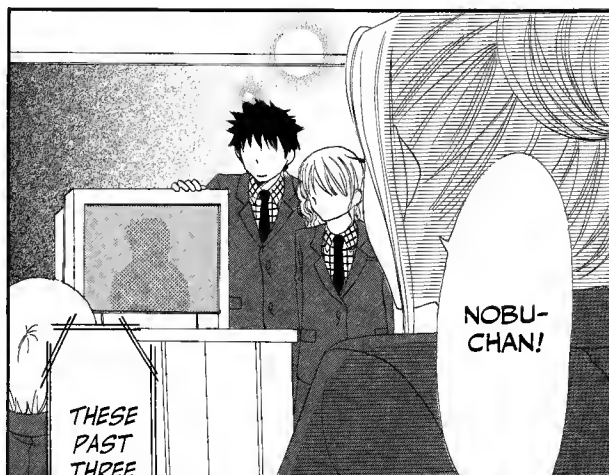
I never let myself rest. And I won't rest now. I'll keep drawing manga, so please keep believing in me!

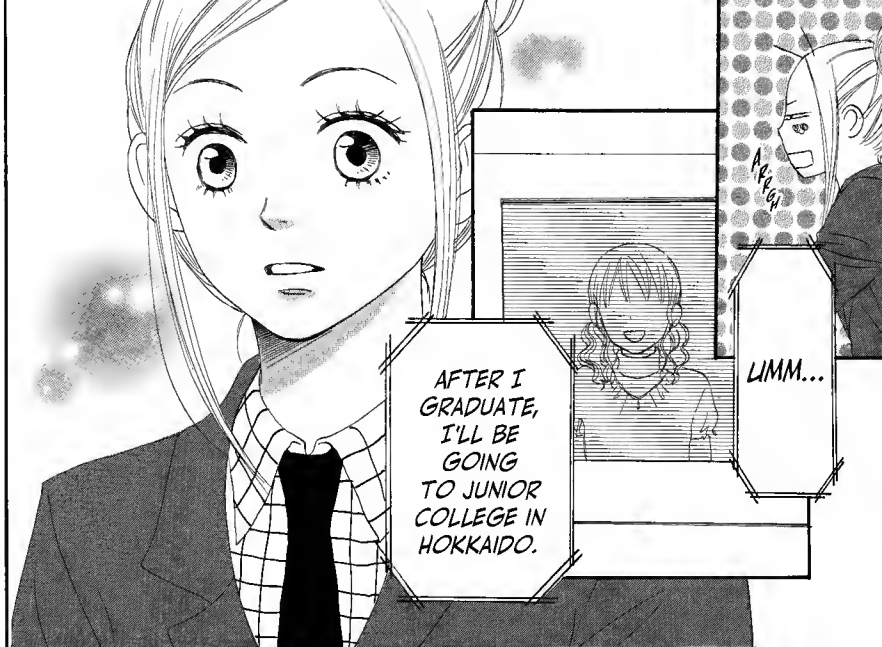
This will be the last note in this volume. I never write anything worthwhile, so I guess this is a good place to stop. Sorry! Am I depressing or what? Hee hee! Anyway...

I hope we can meet again in Love*Com volume 17.

Aya ☺

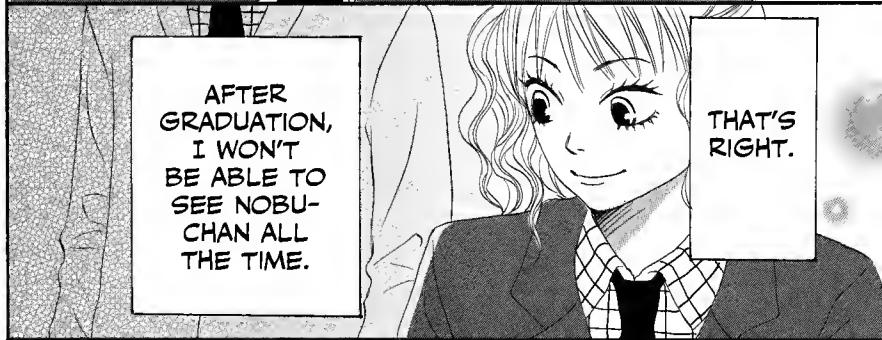
January 2007





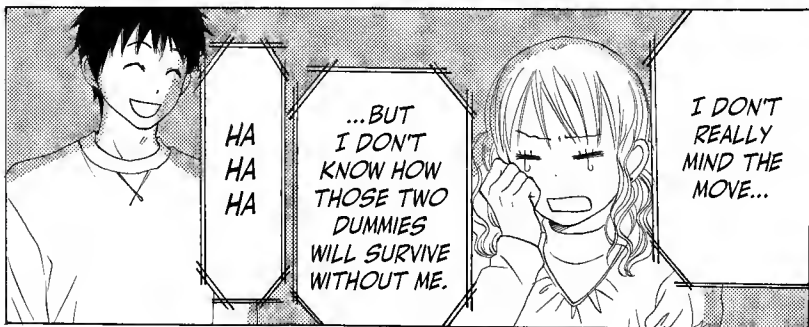
AFTER I
GRADUATE,
I'LL BE
GOING
TO JUNIOR
COLLEGE IN
HOKKAIDO.

UHM...



AFTER
GRADUATION,
I WON'T
BE ABLE TO
SEE NOBU-
CHAN ALL
THE TIME.

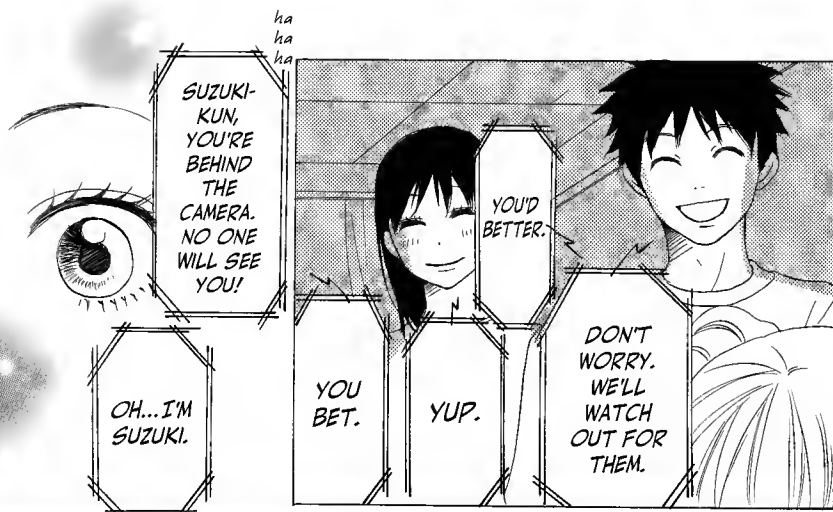
THAT'S
RIGHT.



HA
HA
HA

...BUT
I DON'T
KNOW HOW
THOSE TWO
DUMMIES
WILL SURVIVE
WITHOUT ME.

I DON'T
REALLY
MIND THE
MOVE...



WE HUNG
OUT EVERY
DAY LIKE
IT WAS THE
NATURAL
THING
TO DO.

BUT
TOMOR-
ROW IT
WON'T
BE THAT
WAY
ANY-
MORE.

HUH?
WHAT
FOR?

GIVE
RISA A
MESSAGE!

OKAY,
OTANI-
KUN.
YOU'RE
UP.

GO
FOR
IT.

SHE'S THE
ONLY ONE
WHO'LL
SEE THIS
PART.

HUH?
YOU'RE
TAPING
ME
TOO?



LISTEN,
YOU MADE
KOIZUMI-SAN
DO ALL
THE WORK
FOR THREE
YEARS.

WELL...

OH, COME
ON. IT'S THE
LAST DAY.
YOU DON'T
WANT TO SEND
HER JUST
ONE MESSAGE
FROM THE
HEART?

NO
THANKS!

ARE YOU
CRAZY?

"I
LOVE
YOU."

YEAH?
WHAT
DO YOU
EXPECT
ME TO
SAY?

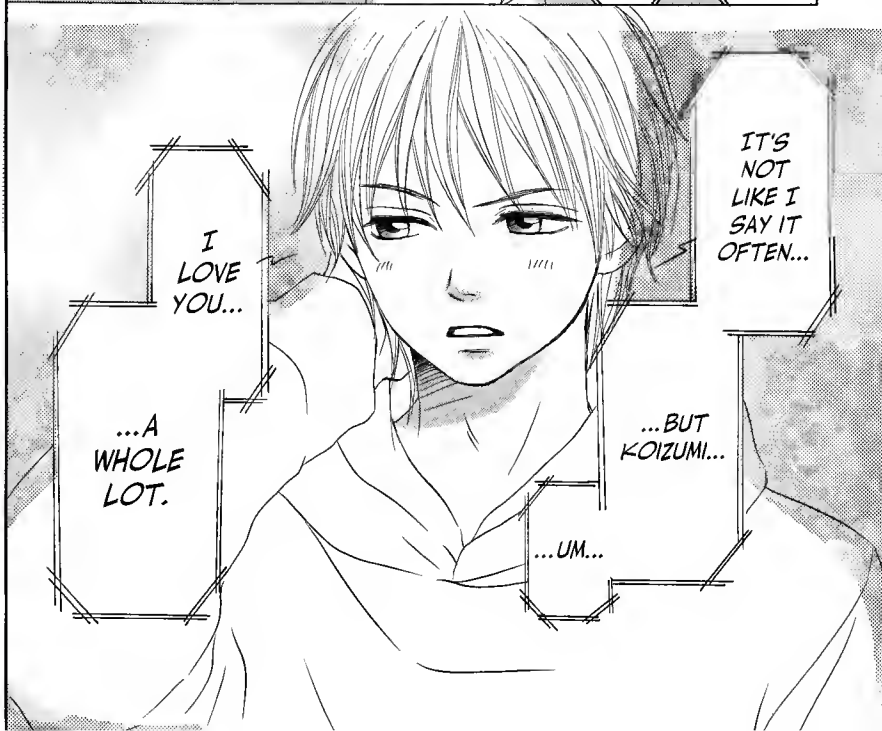
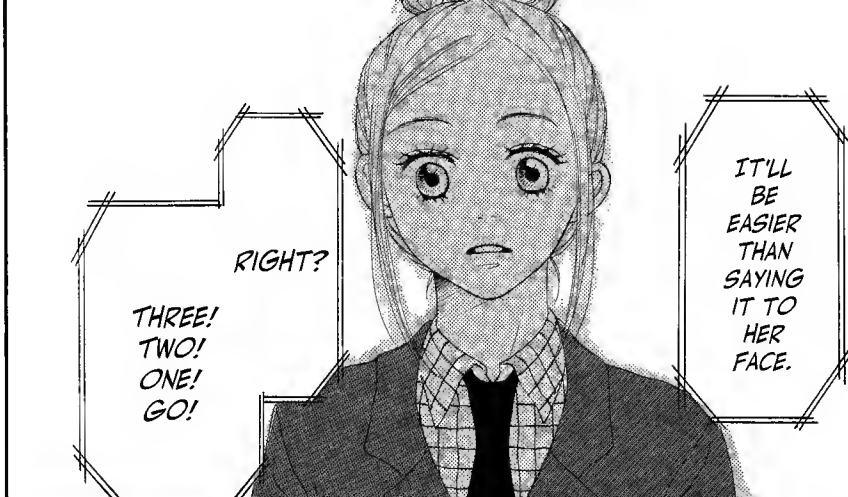
HUH?
YOU
DON'T
LIKE
HER?

WHY
WOULD
I...?

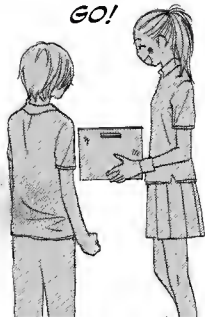
THEN
HOW
ABOUT,
"I LIKE
YOU"?

WHAT'S
WRONG WITH
TELLING
HER JUST
THIS ONCE?

I...
I DO,
BUT...



HERE
YOU
GO!



I'M
GLAD
I MET
YOU.

IS THAT
ENOUGH
?

THAT
WAS
NICE.
OKAY,
GOOD.

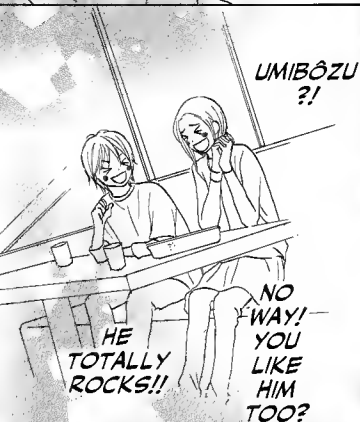
...YOU
MAKING
FUN
OF ME?



UMIBÔZU
?!

HE
TOTALLY
ROCKS!!

NO
WAY!—
YOU
LIKE
HIM
TOO?





I REALLY
DO LOVE
YOU, AND
I CAN'T
JUST
FORGET
THAT.

AND I
DON'T
WANT
YOU TO
FORGET
IT, EITHER.



UH...
OKAY.

I CAN'T JUST
SUDDENLY
START
GOING OUT
WITH YOU
OR THINKING
OF YOU
THAT WAY.

I'M
SORRY.



HUH?!
KOIZUMI'S
IN LOVE
WITH
SOME-
BODY?

WHO?!



I GUESS
MAYBE SHE'S
NOT REALLY
MY TYPE
AFTER ALL.

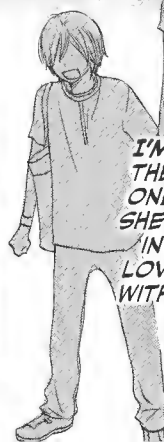


DON'T
QUIT.

THIS TIME
I'M GONNA
QUIT FOR
REAL.



NOT
YOU!! SHE
DOES NOT
HAVE THE
HOTS FOR
YOU, GOT
THAT?!



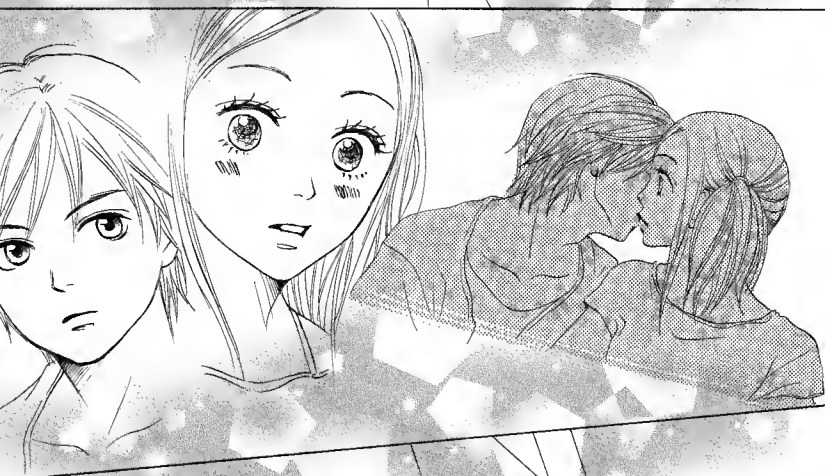
I'M
THE
ONE
SHE'S
IN LOVE
WITH!!



LISTEN
TO ME,
DUDE!!

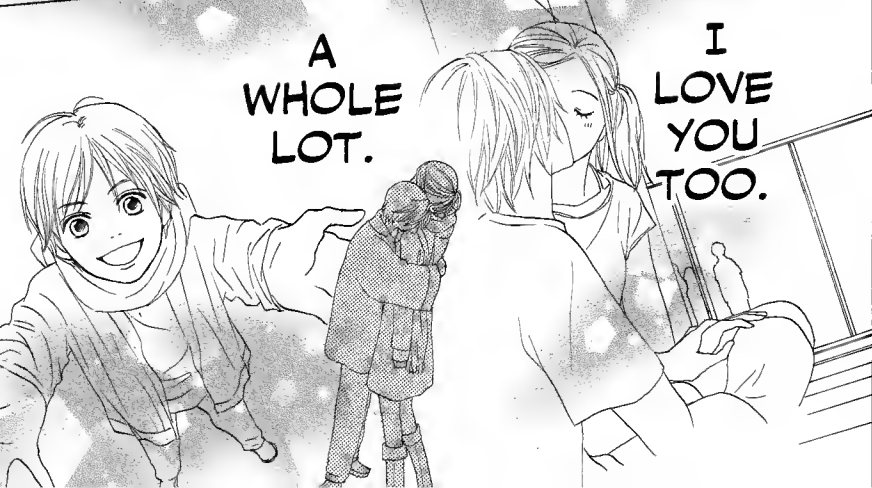
OH,
ÔTANI...

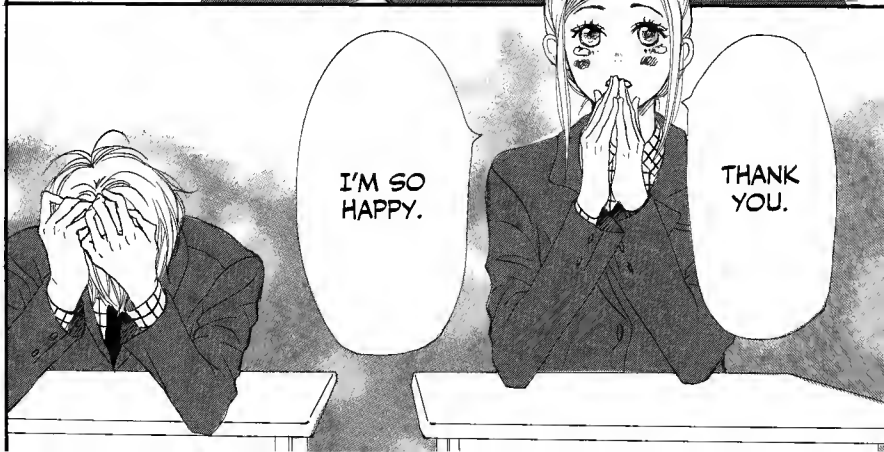
DON'T
QUIT.



A
WHOLE
LOT.

I
LOVE
YOU
TOO.







I'M
GLAD.



HUH?
WHAT'RE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

AFTER
THAT...

I'LL
GET
YOU
GUYS
FOR
THIS!!

I'M JUST
SORRY
IT MADE
EVERYBODY
ELSE SO
HAPPY!!

WOOOT

HA
HA
HA



Aw,
Risas
crying!

...REMEM-
BERING
HAPPY
TIMES...

...WE ALL
CRIED
TOGETHER.

...AND
SAD
TIMES...



Bye-
bye!

Bye!

Bye-
bye!

Bye!

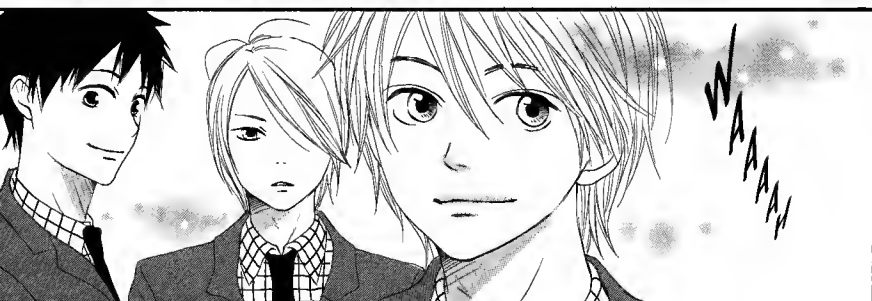


C'MON,
IT'S NO
BIG
DEAL.

PROMISE
YOU'LL
COME
HOME
ONCE IN
A WHILE!!

OKAY.

WE'LL
COME
UP TO
VISIT.
ALL OF
US!!





SO MANY
MEMORIES

...



Wow.
YOU
TURNED
OFF THE
WATER-
WORKS
FAST.

I'M
GONNA
SING
UMI-
BÔZU!!



psst
YOU
DIDN'T
KNOW?

OH,
REALLY?

OH
WELL.
LET'S
GO!

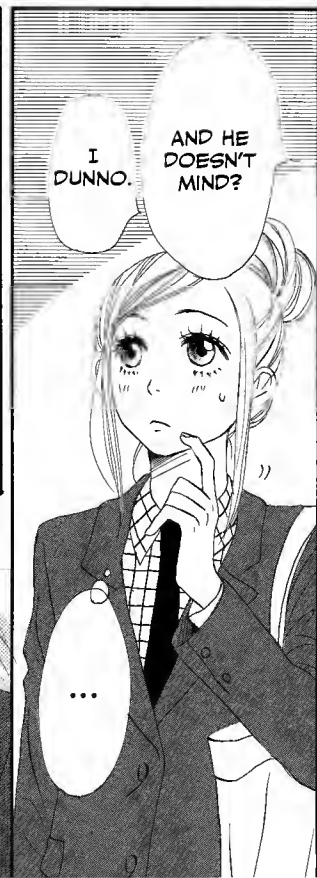
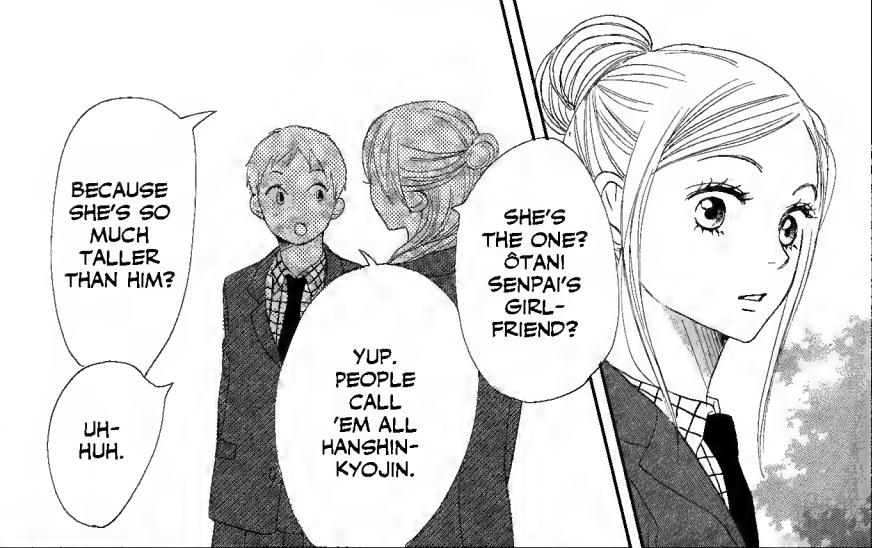


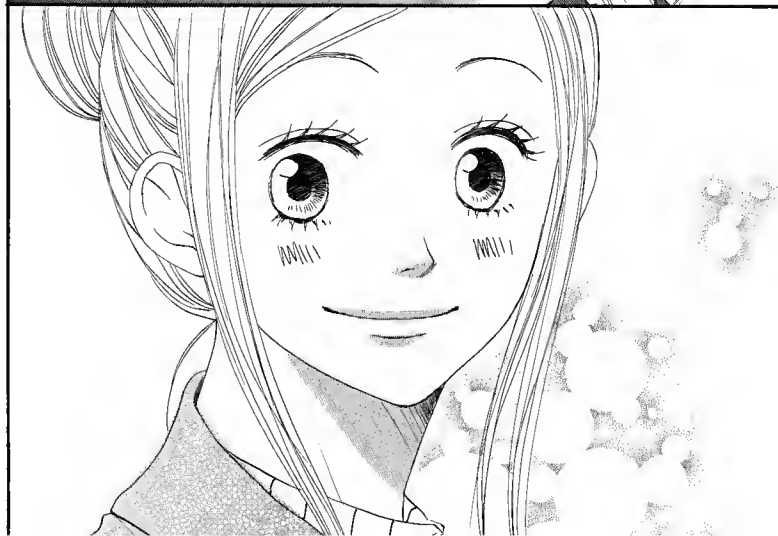
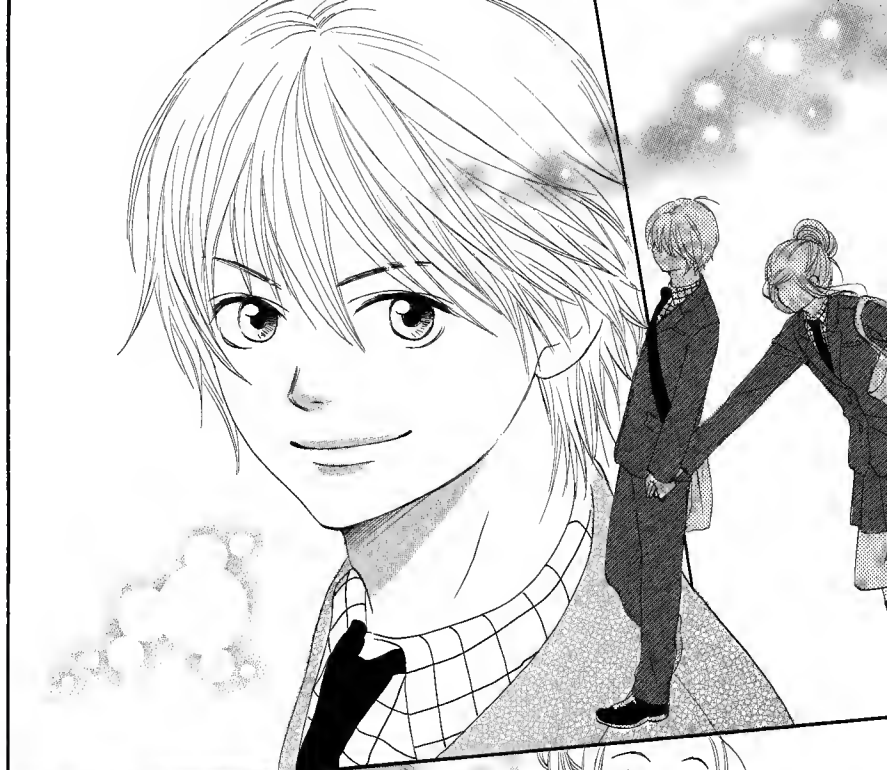
GUYS,
LET'S
GO OUT
ONE
LAST
TIME!

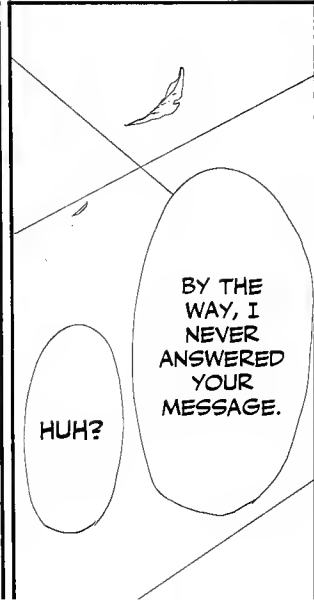
HEY...

HOW
ABOUT
KARA-
OKE?

SOUNDS
GOOD!









WE DID
LOTS
OF WILD
STUFF.

WE
CRIED
A LOT...

GEEZ,
I
KNOW
THAT.

HA
HA
HA

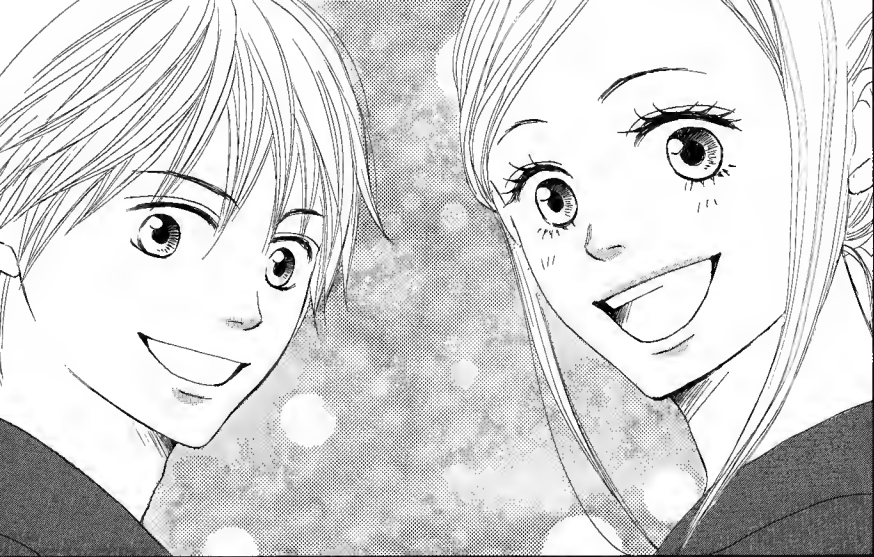
...AND
LAUGHED
A LOT.



BYE-
BYE!

KOIZUMI-
SAN!
ÔTANI-
KUN!

EVERY
DAY
WAS A
LITTLE
CRAZY.



AND IT'LL
PROBABLY
STAY
THAT WAY.

BYE!



《THE END》



AYA NAKAHARA
PRESENTS

THE PLACE WHERE WE BELONG

FEATURING TEPPEI KOIKE



僕^{ぼく}らの^{らの}
居^い場^ば所^{しょ}

The Place Where We Belong
WaT: The Teppei Koike Story

← The story of WaT begins on the next page. I didn't want to draw anything false about actual, living people, so I really studied up on WaT (or maybe just turned into a fangirl). I came away with the feeling that the appeal of WaT is partly in their songs, and partly in the obvious friendship and bonding you see when the two of them are together. I tried very hard to bring out that part of them in my artwork.

Teppei is the main character in this story. Wentz-kun allowed me to portray him as someone Teppei tries to emulate. Teppei always described his friend and partner as a very cool person, so I did my best to convey that impression. Did it work? I felt like this was the first time in my manga career that I drew a totally cool character. It was a nice change.

My main characters are usually pretty introverted, so it was also refreshing to portray someone like Teppei, who's always positive and outgoing. It's not like he explained every little feeling to me, so I was a bit nervous about adding dialogue and thoughts. But I tried to keep it close to the way I thought the real Teppei would feel.

This was my first attempt at a manga about a real person. It was a fun, exciting experience. I'm very grateful to the people who gave me this opportunity. Thank you very much.

To all the WaT fans out there, and to those who aren't familiar with WaT, I hope you enjoy this manga.





*It was a
two-and-
a-half-hour
ride on the
bullet train
from my
hometown
of Osaka to
this place...*

...Tokyo.



Teppeï,
what're
you doing?
We're
going!

Sorry!

*It's
gorgeous*
...



*Right
here,
from
this
moment*

...

Wait,
Mom!

I'm
coming!

I played
guitar in
the folk
music club
in high
school.

I love
music.

Your
inter-
ests?

CHAK

...my
career
as an
enter-
tainer
began.

Oh...

Okay!

Why
don't
you
close
it?

It
doesn't
really
matter.

Ha
ha
ha

Or
should I
close it?

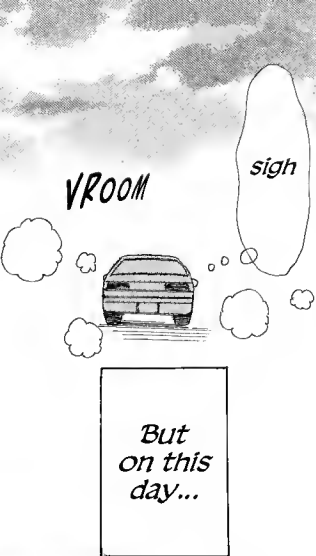
Is it all
right to
keep this
door
open?

Excuse
me.

Thank
you
very
much.

Thanks
for
coming.

Okay.

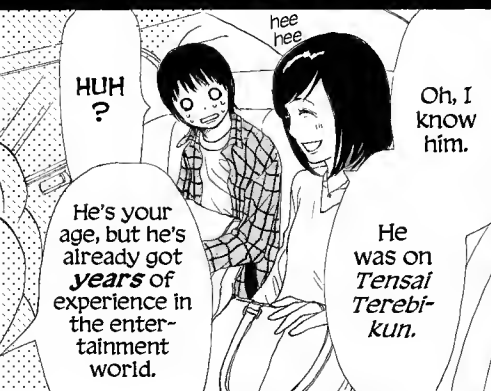


But
on this
day...



He
played
bass on
that TV
show.

He's the
same
age as
you and
loves
music.



He's your
age, but he's
already got
years of
experience in
the enter-
tainment
world.

He
was on
Tensai
Terebi-
kun.



I finally got
to meet
some of the
other talent
from the
agency.

Eiji
Wentz-
kun?

Huh?

*What'll
I do?
I'm so
nervous!*

Chinese Restaurant

Yikes.

*He's a
foreign-
er!!*

*Not
only
that
...*

*He's
already
estab-
lished
in the
busi-
ness.*



*I'll say
"good-
night"! Wait, no,
that's
when
you go
to bed!!*

*Can
I say
"hello"
if it's
night-
time?*

*Sh-
Should
I greet
him in
English?*





Konbanwa is "good evening" in Japanese.







*Eiji
Wentz.*

Eiji Wentz

/has been added

*He was
the first
friend
I'd made
in this
business...*

*I spent
the
whole
evening
talking
to that
guy's
mother.*

*Maybe
it's the
mom
who's
making
her debut.*

*...since
I'd
come
to
Tokyo.*





I transferred to a school for the performing arts.

It was too rough to commute from Osaka to Tokyo for every job...

...so I decided to move to Tokyo and live there alone.

Hey!

I saw that girl in a magazine this morning!



...made the ten-hour drive from Osaka with me.

On the day I moved, my dad, mom and kid brother...

Go for it, Teppei!



Good luck, Tet-chan!

Yeah, Koichi!

Go for it, Ko-Q!



My friends in Osaka came to see me off too.



Everybody here kind of... **glows.**

You think?

You look hot.

Do I really belong here?





...

It was too much of a pain.



Cuz I got wet.

You've got an umbrella.



Geez...

Okay, okay.

Man, I'm thirsty.

I emailed Ei-chan and talked to him on the phone while I was in Osaka.



You only wanna play the stuff you're good at.

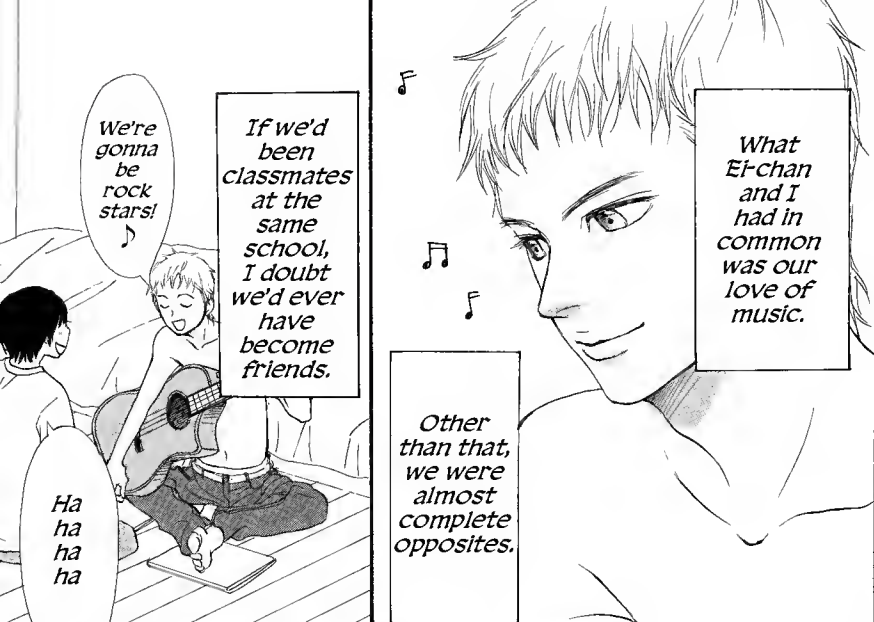
Heh heh...

Okay, whatever, then.

Let's play some Kobu-kuro-san.

After I moved to Tokyo...

...we spent a lot of time in each other's apartments, jamming or talking about music.



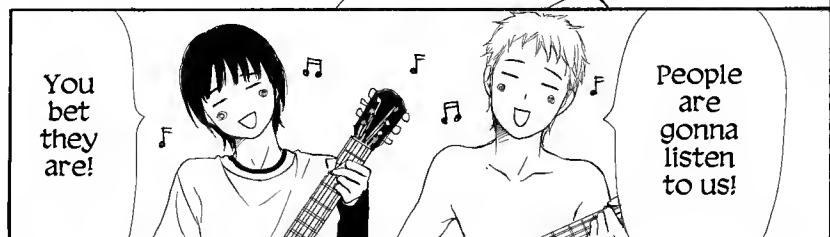
We're gonna be rock stars!

If we'd been classmates at the same school, I doubt we'd ever have become friends.

What Ei-chan and I had in common was our love of music.

Other than that, we were almost complete opposites.

Ha ha ha ha



You bet they are!

People are gonna listen to us!



It's chaos!

Ha ha!

Listen to the cheers!! It's a celebration!!

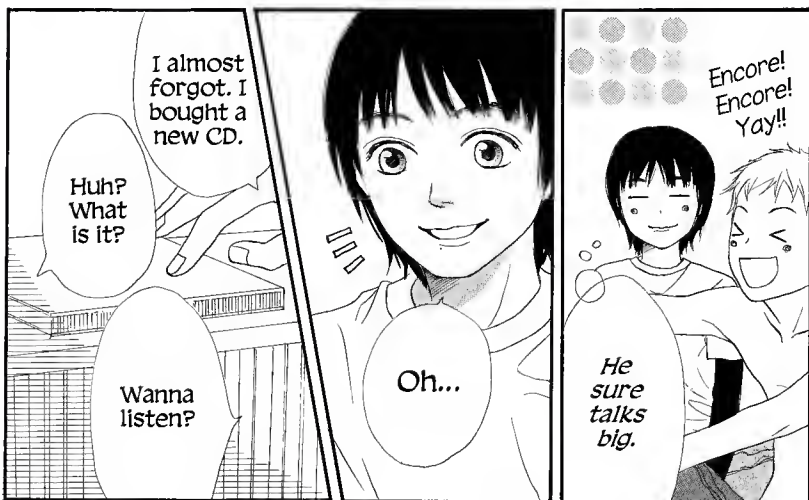
Oh no!

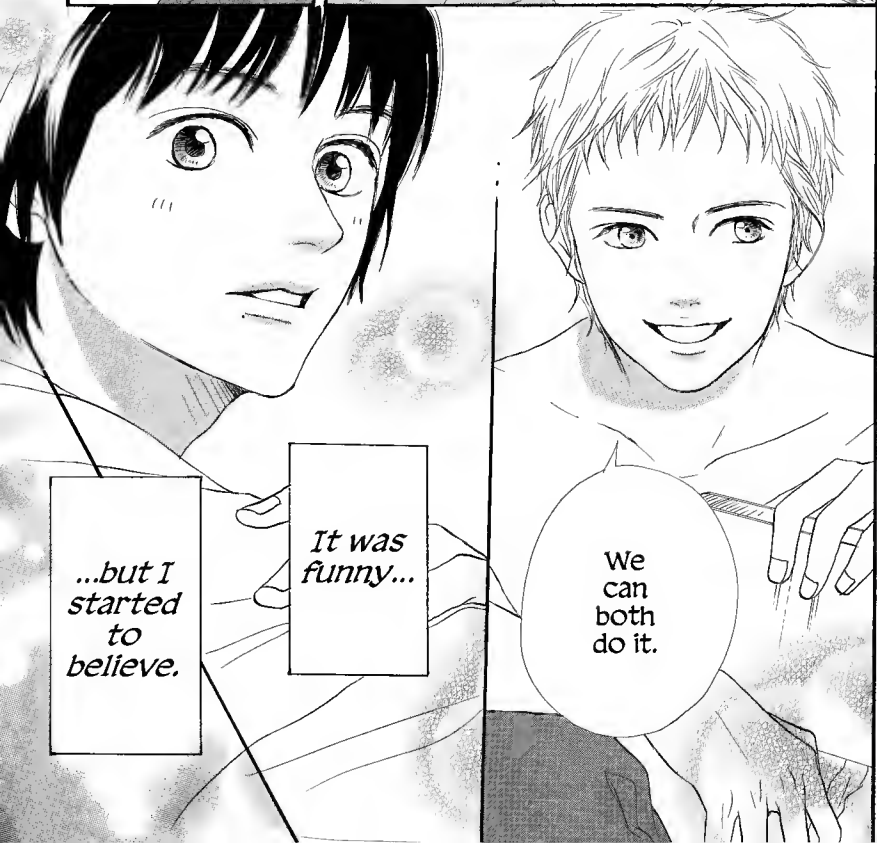
Please, no shoving! One at a time!

If we go out and jam somewhere, the fans will mob us!

No question!

We're gonna be a hit!





Okay.
How about
trying a
street
performance?

Tok

Tok



Yeah!

*I felt like
anything
was
possible.*



BRR

Please
enjoy our
cover of
"Misaki
Meguri." Um...
Er...

BRR

O-Okay.
C-can
we start?

Well...
It's just
more
people
to enjoy
our
music.

I
think
so.

S...

S...

So
many
people...

Uh...

Uh-
huh.

Tok

Tok



We set
out for our
first street
performance
full of
confidence...

We
didn't
project
well.

...but we
ended up
feeling
more embar-
rassed than we
expected.

Ah
ha ha
Really...

Yes,
I see.
Thank
you.









*We
wanted
someone
to get to
know us
and our
love of
music.*

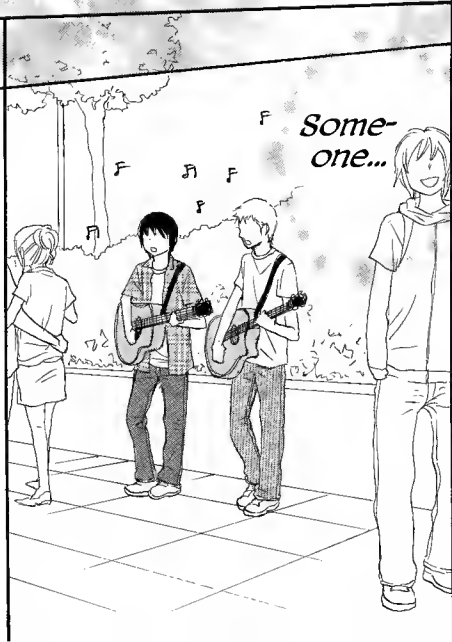
Ow...
man,
he's a
noisy
sleeper.

G R R R R R R K

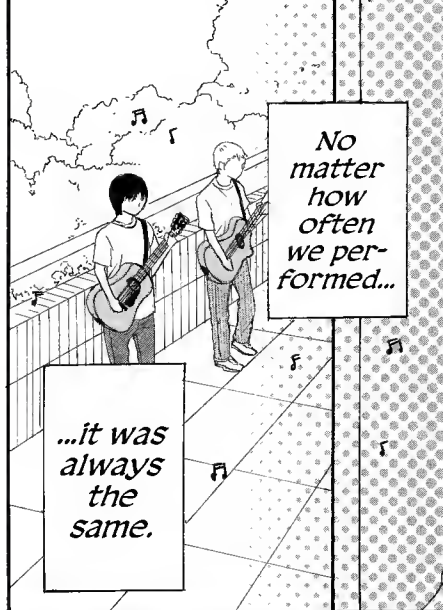


...every-
one's
always
so
busy.

I
wonder
why...



Some-
one...



No
matter
how
often
we per-
formed...

...it was
always
the
same.



Real
life
isn't
easy.

And
after we
practiced
so hard.



Oh,
Wentz!

First-
name
basis...



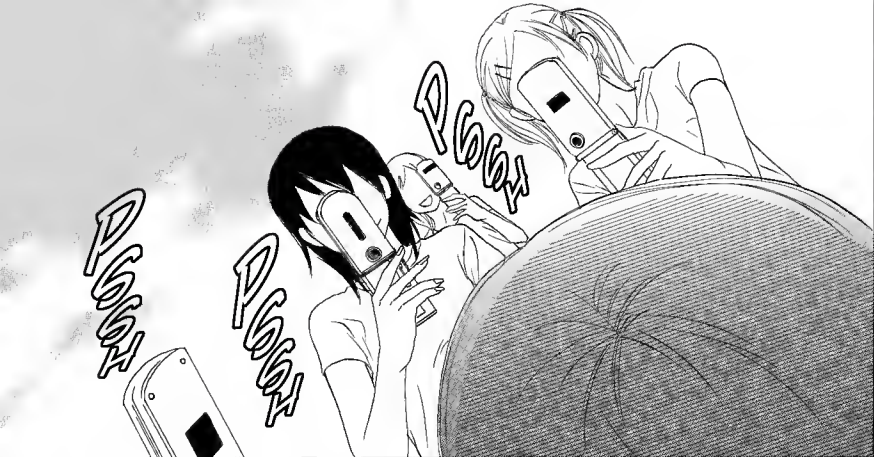
Huh?

Hey,
I saw
him in a
magazine.



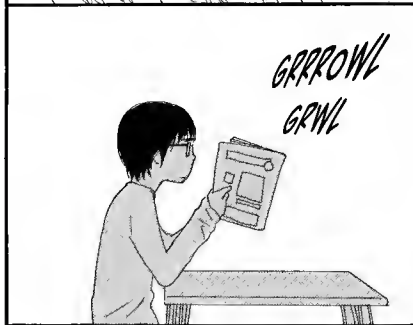
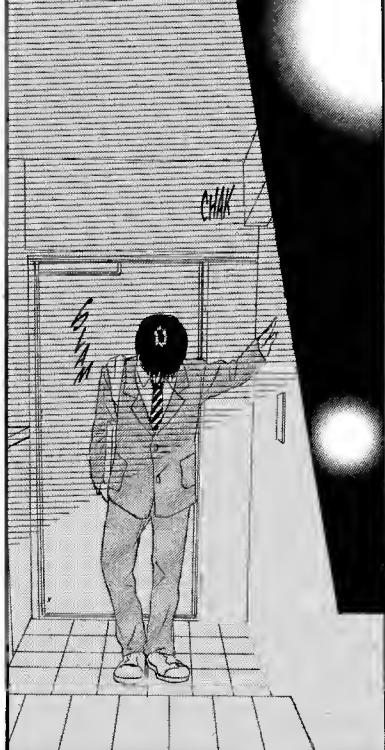
But...

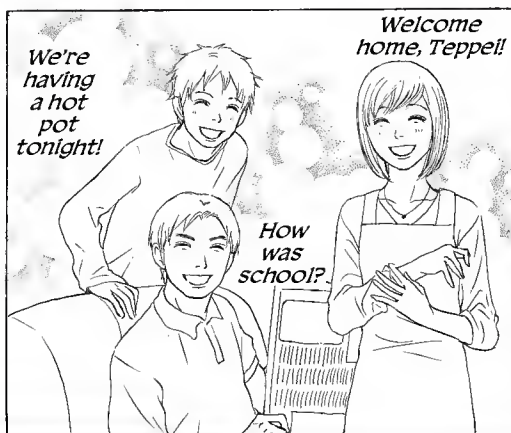
Some-
times
people
stopped
and
stared...











*We're
having
a hot
pot
tonight!*

*Welcome
home, Teppei!!*

*How
was
school!?*

*I don't
have any-
thing for
dinner.*

Nuts!

*I
forgot
to buy
rice!*



*I'm
hope-
less.*

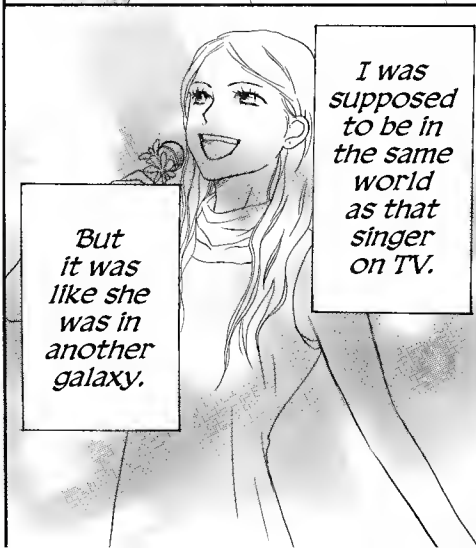
*WE'RE
BRINGING
THIS
TO YOU
LIVE...*

*I only
made it
this far
because
of their
encour-
agement.*

*What
am I
doing?*



...THIS
WEEK'S
NEW
NUMBER
ONE
SINGLE!



But
it was
like she
was in
another
galaxy.

I was
supposed
to be in
the same
world
as that
singer
on TV.

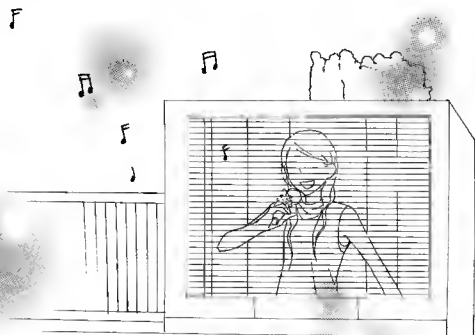


So far
away.

*I had
to
work
harder.*



*I wanted
to be
part of
that
world.*



Don't
give me
that!

Yes,
sir!

Are
you two
practicing?





chirp
chirp



*Summer
vacation
came
at the
perfect
time.*

***Training
camp!***

This
feels
great.

Ahhh!
The air
feels so
fresh!





*If we
could
get just
a few
people
to listen...*

Let's
connect
these
two
lines...

And this
sounds
good,
right?

Uh-
huh...

"Our
thoughts
..."

*...even
a
little...*

Yeah,
let's
leave
it like
that.

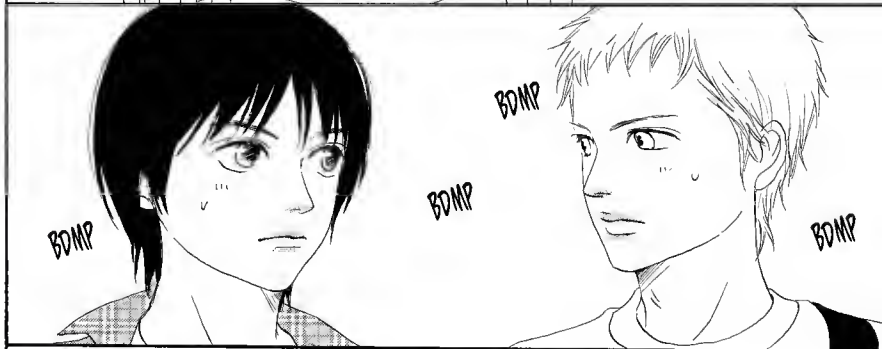
Really
?

No, I
like it.

Argh...
some-
thing
doesn't
fit...

*If we
could
get
across
our
thoughts
and
feelings...*

The Place Where We Belong





PLEASE LOOK AT ME AND
TALK TO US

PUT DOWN YOUR
HEAVY BURDEN

A PATH OPENS UP IN THE BLUE SKY

WHAT IS IT YOU
SEE RIGHT NOW?

DO OUR THOUGHTS AND
FEELINGS REACH YOU?

WE'LL ALWAYS BE
WAITING RIGHT HERE
PLEASE LOOK AT US,
PLEASE TALK TO US

WE'LL ALWAYS
BE SINGING HERE
IT'S HARD TO EXPRESS
EVERYTHING WE FEEL,
BUT WE'LL KEEP SINGING
RIGHT HERE

NO MATTER WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

THE PLACE WE BELONG WON'T CHANGE

YOU'RE NOT ALONE WHEN YOU'RE FEELING DOWN
WE'LL PUT A SMILE ON YOUR FACE
AND WE'LL SING

Good
luck!

We'll
come
again
to hear
you!


Wow!
That
was
great!



*...we
could
do.*



*Finally
there
was
some-
thing...*



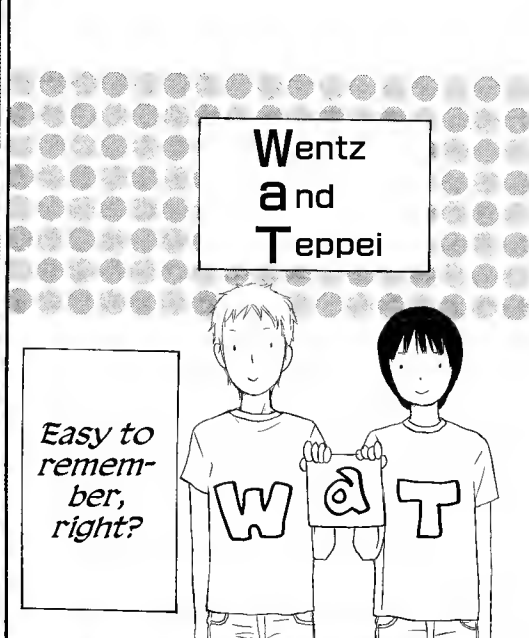
*Something
we could
share with
the world.*



*We
chose
a name
for our-
selves.*



*Over time,
a lot of
people
came to
see our
street
performances.*



**Wentz
and
Teppei**

*Easy to
remember,
right?*



*We
released
our own
indie
album.*



**WaT
Entertainment
Show**

*...and
managed
to book
some live
concerts.*

**WATER
BOYS 2**

GOKUSEN 2

*At the
same
time,
we got
some
work
in TV
dramas...*

Your
major
label
debut
has
been
set.



*Before
I knew
it...*



*...three
years
had
passed
since
I first
met
Ei-chan.*

Con-
gratula-
tions!!



DRAGON SAKURA

Huh?

Isn't
that
great?

Say...

OUR
MAJOR
LABEL
DEBUT,
HUH?

Hey,
Ei-
chan!

Did
you
hear?

HUH?

That's
wonderful.
Congratula-
tions!!

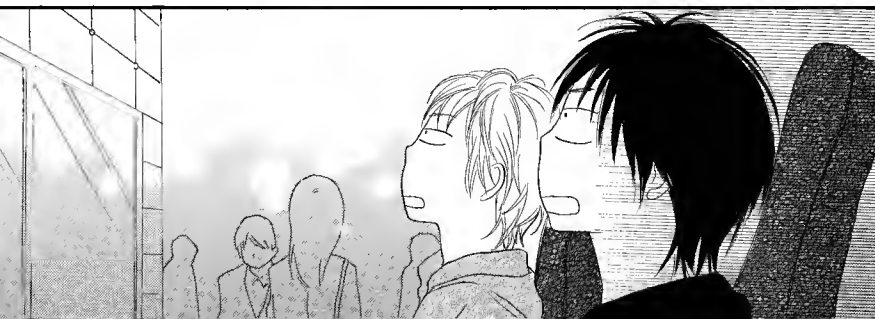
Ah...

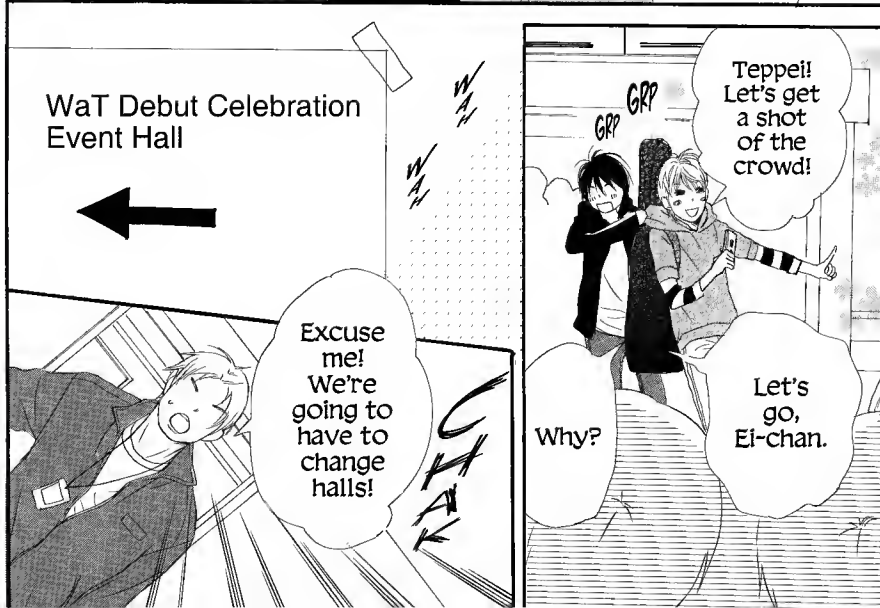
Oh...

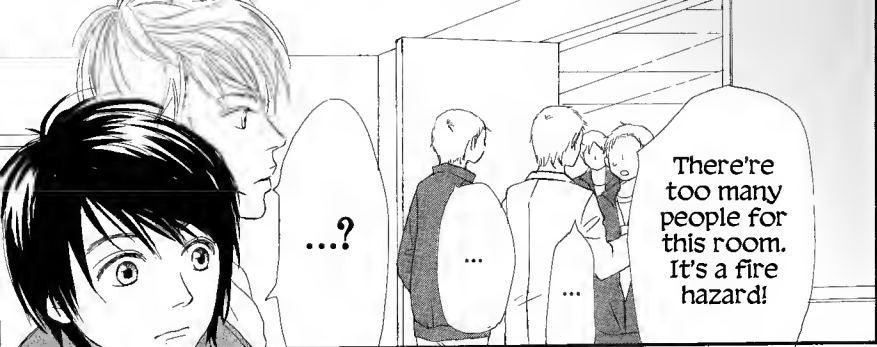




*One
of us
always
supports
the
other.*









Ei-
chan!

Teppei-
kun!

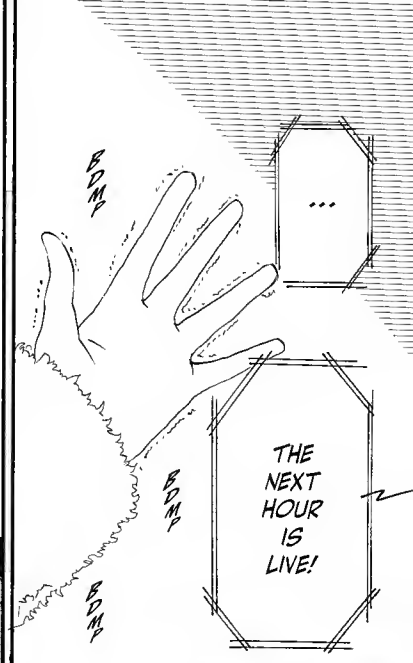
Ei-
chan!

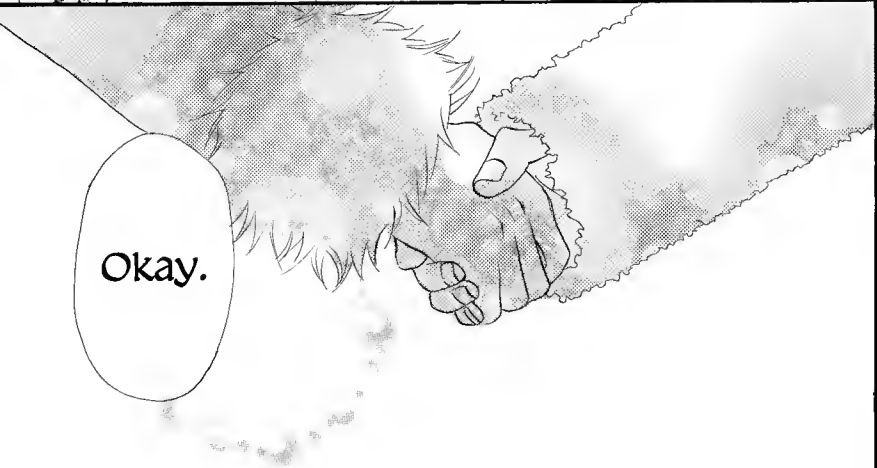
Teppei-
kun!

All these
people...?

It's...
a celebra-
tion...







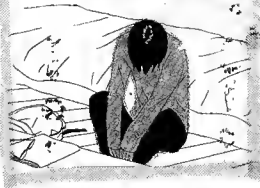
Okay.



*I'm glad I'm with
Ei-chan.*



I'm glad we're Wat.



*I'm glad I'm
Teppeï Koïke.*





*All the
roads
I've
taken...*

*...are
precious
to me.*



*This
is my
path
now.*

*And
I'll
keep
on...*

*...walk-
ing.*

《THE END》

glossary

Page 7, panel 2: Good luck cat

The kanji character on the cat is *fuku*, which means good fortune/happiness.

Page 10, panel 5: Issunbōshi

Issunbōshi is a Japanese folk tale about a tiny boy, similar to Tom Thumb. (*Issun* is a unit of measure that equals approximately one inch.) When he goes off to seek his fortune, Issunbōshi uses a soup bowl for a boat and chopsticks for oars.

Page 80, panel 1: Matsuri

The kanji on Abe's jacket means "festival."

Page 96, panel 1: All Hanshin and All Kyojin

All Hanshin-Kyojin are a comedy team with a short guy (Hanshin) and a tall guy (Kyojin). If you've been reading from volume 1, you already know this!

Page 133: Teppei Koike

Teppei Koike is a singer/actor who had his first leading role as Atsushi Ōtani in *Love★Com: The Movie*.

Page 137, panel 6: Tensai Terebi-kun

Tensai Terebi-kun was an NHK educational children's program. Eiichi Wentz played bass guitar on the show when he was 10 years old.

Page 144, panel 4: Kobukuro-san

Kobukuro-san refers to the musical duo of Kentaro **Kobuchi** and Shunsuke **Kuroda**. The name of the band is derived in a similar way to WaT (Wentz and Teppei)!

Page 171, panel 4: Water Boys 2 and Gokusen 2

These are both titles of TV dramas.

Page 172, panel 2: Dragon Zakura

Dragon Zakura is a TV drama from 2005.



This volume marks the end of our main story. But they're letting me do a few extra features and side stories, so there'll be one more volume after this. And the onime comes out in the spring! So I'd love it if you could keep *Love★Com* in your heart a little while longer.

Aya Nakahara won the 2003 Shogakukan Manga Award for her breakthrough hit *Love★Com*, which was made into a major motion picture and a PS2 game in 2006. She debuted with *Haru to Kuuki Nichiyō-bi* in 1995, and her other works include *HANADA* and *Himitsu Kichi*.

LOVE★COM VOL 16

Shojo Beat Manga Edition



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Written by Nocki Tonoka and WAT

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